FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VICE PRESIDENT MARTINEZ RETURNS FROM USSR

PY190026 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1508 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- On returning to Argentina, Vice President Victor Martinez today said: We talk about disarmament in a general sense and not as regards any given power. We are for worldwide disarmament and against the creation of security poles in this part of the world.

We insist, therefore, he commented, in noninterference in the affairs of other nations, especially in Latin America and in South America. To achieve this, and I told this to a high-ranking Soviet politician, the small, Third World states must not be considered mere spectators, because there are no longer small friends or small foes. Any disregard of the countries that are considered small can endanger world peace, the stability and security that we want, the same thing they (the superpowers) want, he said.

The vice president made these remarks this morning upon returning to our country after his protocol representation in Moscow at Yuriy Andropov's funeral. Victor Martinez added that the Soviet Union is interested in cooperating in the joint construction of the Middle Parana and Yacyreta dams, and explained that the first is not a minor enterprise for Argentina, but a project of great importance.

Moreover, he said that some French senators will visit Argentina at the beginning of March in the same way that some U.S. congressmen are visiting, in order to intensify contacts, because Congress is now functioning in Argentina. All treaties and agreements for the designation of ambassadors go through Congress, and these contacts are therefore necessary from the standpoint of bilateral and multilateral trade relations.

At the Ezeiza International Airport VIP hall, the vice president said that we have established official contacts with French businessmen seeking to build a methanol plant in Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, located 168 km north of Usuhaia.

Regarding speeches made by Soviet leaders, Victor Martinez said that they essentially condemned the (Ronald) Reagan administration and especially his policy of arm race emphasizing their well-known position on disarmament, peace, and security.

We talked about disarmament in a general sense, Martinez stated, not of any particular power. We are for worldwide disarmament and against the creation of security poles in different parts of the world.

He added that problems cannot be solved by only easing tensions between East and West. He said that problems of Third World countries, of the so-called developing nations must be resolved. These countries cannot be considered mere spectators but actors.

Asked about possible contacts with British authorities on the Malvinas issue, Martinez said that it was not the appropriate occasion to discuss this matter because it was not the objective of his mission. Of course, he added, there are always countries of good will, there are always expressions of desire to participate in negotiations, not in the nature of arbitration, but in negotiations that would bring the two parties closer together, he explained. Nevertheless, the Argentine vice president said that he has not exchanged protocol greetings with his British counterparts.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR MANAGUA

PY201300 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary Elsa Kelly last night left for Managua to attend the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino. Kelly had arrived in Buenos Aires only a few hours earlier after a stopover in Paris as member of the delegation headed by Vice President Victor Martinez who represented our country at the funeral of Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov in Moscow.

It was learned from government sources that the presidential decision to send an official Argentine Government delegation to Managua for the 50th anniversary of the death of the Nicaraguan national hero was made after a meeting that Alfonsin held with Nicaraguan Reconstruction Minister Edmundo Jarquin who is visiting our country. On this occasion, Jarquin reiterated the official invitation of the Nicaraguan Government.

The same sources indicated that the presence of the Argentine delegation at the ceremonies in Managua will reaffirm the Argentine Government's support for the Contadora Group's efforts to find a peaceful solution for Central America. This decision will also confirm the Argentine belief that an effective and lasting peace in the region will only be achieved through the establishment of pluralist, democratic governments and respect for human rights.

The sources also indicated that the Argentine delegation is headed by Elsa Kelly because of her good relations with Western and Latin American personalities. She is the most appropriate person to ensure that the Argentine stand on the Central American issue is not incorrectly interpreted.

Government sources said that in order to strengthen relations between the two countries and in consideration of the fact that a large part of the Central American crisis is due to socioeconomic problems, the delegation also includes Under Secretary of Education Bernardo Sola and Hugo Zanelli, director of Argentine railroads.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA SIGNED

PY171605 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0109 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- Argentina and Nicaragua today signed a cooperation agreement to promote the participation of state and private companies in various programs and projects. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Nicaraguan Reconstruction Minister Edmundo Jarquin Calderon at a ceremony held in the Golden Room of Government House at 1830 this afternoon.

The agreement provides for the creation of a joint Argentine-Nicaraguan cooperation commission that will meet alternately in Buenos Aires and Managua. The commission will be charged with making the necessary recommendations to effectively implement the agreement. The agreement also establishes rules for the exchange of specialists to implement it. The agreement will be provisionally effective as of today, and it will go into force when the two parties notify each other that they have complied with the legal requirements of their respective countries.

FRG COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ON RESULTS OF VISIT

PY201611 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (NA) -- Today FRG Posts and Telecommunications Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling talked about the possibility of Argentine-FRG cooperation in the field of telecommunications. Schwarz-Schilling, in an exclusive NA interview before his departure, said that he was "very satisfied with the result of his contacts with Argentine officials and the receptivity I found during the meetings that I held."

The FRG minister, who arrived in Buenos Aires on 15 February, met with Public Works and Services Minister Roque Carranza and Communications Secretary Humberto Ciancaglini in addition to officials from the National Telecommunications Enterprise and the National Enterprise for Mail and Telegraph.

He emphasized the progress made in the project for cooperation between the FRG Space Research Institute and the Argentine National Commission for Space Research in the Domsat project. Schwarz-Schilling added that these first steps, which include the training of Argentine technicians in Germany and German expert assistance in Argentina, "are the result of Argentina's confidence in this new stage of its political life."

He added: "During all the meetings we found the best disposition for modernization, for a revolutionary experience in the field of communications with the cooperation of enterprises of German origin already established in Argentina." Schwarz-Schilling also said that he found the same spirit of understanding on the congressional level after he met with Deputy Leopoldo Moreau and Senator Fernando Mauhum, presidents of the communications committees of the two chambers.

In conclusion, the FRG minister said that he "reached a wide range of agreements for the World Postal Congress to be held in Hamburg next June." On this occasion Argentina will hold four vice presidencies in representation of Latin America; it will therefore have "very important" participation.

ECONOMY MINISTER GRINSPUN DEPARTS FOR EUROPE

PY172330 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2207 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (TELAM) -- Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun left for Rome this afternoon at 1800. His trip will also include Paris. At Ezeiza International Airport Grinspun said that he plans to hold talks with the president of the Paris Club but ruled out the possibility of discussing refinancing the Argentine foreign debt on that occasion.

COB AWAITS DECREES TO SUSPEND 48-HOUR STRIKE

PY210228 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Relay from Government House]

[Excerpt] There is still uncertainty as to whether the government will in the next few hours promulgate the decrees implementing the agreement that was signed with the representatives of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB]. Leaders of the COB have gone to Government Palace to demand solutions to the problems. These leaders said that if in the next 30 minutes the decrees are not promulgated, the federation will give orders for a 48-hour strike to begin at midnight on Monday, 20 February.

Labor Minister Horst Grebe has just come out of the Cabinet meeting to explain to the labor leaders that work is being completed before approving and releasing those decrees.

The COB Executive Committee is awaiting the release of the decrees implementing the various points of the agreement which was signed between the government and the COB. Up until 2000 the government had not given any answers to the Executive Committee, and therefore all sectors are anxious to know what will be the Executive Committee's decision on the resolution of the COB plenum held last Friday calling for a 48-hour strike beginning at midnight on Monday.

Eduardo Vazquez will tell us about the decision the federantion will make:

[Begin Vasquez recording] We want to tell all of the country's workers that the Executive Committee is making all possible efforts to find solutions to the problems stemming from the agreement the federation signed with the government through the promulgation of the appropriate decrees. Throughout the day, many of our colleagues met with ministers and government officials, but the decrees are still pending, and we are continuing to wait. So we are almost running out of time, and shortly we should make the decision to strike. A few minutes ago, we sent our colleagues Jose Maria Palacios and (Pastor) Lima to see the members of the economic cabinet and obtain the information as to whether the decrees are ready. If they are not, we will immediately sign the resolution implementing the strike in another 30 minutes, 60 at the most. So we ask the labor leaders and workers to be alert for the COB communique which will be released through all news media. [end recording]

Extends Deadline

PY211418 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Last night the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) decided to extend until noon today its 72-hour deadline for the government's approval of the supreme decrees on economic matters. These decrees are related to the agreement entered upon last month during the nationwide hunger strike staged by COB leaders. During a meeting held last Friday, the COB decided to set a 72-hour deadline for the government, that is, until midnight Monday night for the approval of the decrees. Otherwise, the COB would start a 48-hour stoppage.

After a meeting of the COB Executive Board, one of its leaders, Filemin Escobar, said that, after a telephone conversation with Juan Lechin Oquendo, it was decided to wait until noon today to allow the government to meet its commitments. Otherwise, a 48-hour strike will be held. Escobar said that the COB decision came about after they found out that 32 supreme decrees were being drafted at Government Palace in order to comply with the agreements signed with the COB last month. He said that the COB has once again shown its concern at having the government responsibly face the recent economic crisis. We want the agreements to be met, the prices for staples to remain unchanged, and the interests of the nation to be safeguarded, Escobar said.

He added that we are defending the basic interests of the workers who are working in the cities, mines, and fields. He stated that once again the government has irresponsibly falied to comply with the agreements reached and, why not say [word indistinct] altogether, above all concerning the interpellation in Congress.

Escobar said that government representatives belatedly told COB leaders that the decrees would be signed tomorrow morning, that is, today. Therefore, in order to once again prove the COB's patriotic spirit, it was decided that the 72-hour deadline would be extended until noon. After this, the meeting's decision to hold a nationwide 48-hour stoppage will become effective immediately, if the government fails to comply with its commitments.

Cancels Strike

PY220100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 21 Feb (EFE) -- The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) today called off the 48-hour strike that was to be staged against the government of Siles Zuazo.

The COB suspended the strike in view of the government's decision to approve a set of economic decrees favoring the labor sector. The strike was scheduled to begin today and continue through tomorrow if the Siles Zuazo regime upheld its decision not to pass measures favoring majority sectors of the population.

FRENCH, ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS SEND NEEDED FLOUR

PY211505 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Commerce Under Secretary Miguel (Torrico) has informed Radio Panamericana that a sizable shipment of flour has been routed to the nationalized mining districts. A total of 3,000 quintals of flour was obtained from the French Government under a loan, thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce with the French Embassy in La Paz.

A total of 660 metric tons of Argentine flour for the domestic market has arrived in Santa Cruz, announced (Torrico). Large-tonnage trucks have been made available to transport it from Santa Cruz to the interior of the country. This first shipment is meant to bring the supply of this basic item at the main markets in our country back to normal.

This shipment arrived in 22 railroad cars that were furnished by Raul Alfonsin's government, whose members have fully cooperated in having this shipment transported from the Bolivian-Argentine border.

(Torrico) also reported that more Argentine flour is expected next week, and that, therefore, attempts will be made toward maintaining the price for bread at the levels fixed by the government.

ARMY COMMANDER MEETS POLITICIANS; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

PY221208 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Public Relations Department of the office of the Commander in Chief of the Army has issued a communique on the meeting between Army Commander in Chief General Simon Sejas Tordoya and leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR]. The text of the communique follows:

The Public Relations Department of the office of the Commander in Chief of the Army, in response to reports published in the newspaper HOY on Tuesday, 21 February, wishes to inform the general public of the following:

1. It is a well-known fact that on 19 January 1984 the commander in chief of the Army met with high-ranking leaders of the MIR just as on other occasions he met with representatives of various other political, union, and cultural organizations. The objective of these meetings was to hear opinions on matters of national interest, thus promoting the unity of the Bolivian people and to urge that personal or factional ambitions be given up.

2. During these meetings, no subversive subjects capable of disrupting the normal development of the democratic process, which is part of the institutional convictions of the Army, were discussed. The commander in chief of the Army wishes to reaffirm his absolute compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Constitution and his allegiance to the legally established branches of the state, not to any political party whatsoever, a position which has been stated repeatedly.

ARMY COMMAND RELEASES NEW APPOINTMENTS

PY181750 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Yesterday the Army Command released the order of Army appointments in its military units. The order includes the appointment of commanders and chief of staff in the main military units.

The summary of the order only includes appointments of important military positions. The summary gives the following appointments:

Military Household

Chief: General Edgar Claure Paz
Aide-de-camp: Majors Julio Camara Saucedo, and Gonzalo Rivera Barberi.

National Security Council (CONASE)

Council Chief: General Alfredo Calvi Baldivieso.
Chiefs of Departments: Colonel Felix Perez Lopez, Julio Azcano Lopez, and Guillermo Loatza Ramos.

Defense Ministry

Under Secretary: General Mario Oxa Bustos
Members of the Ministry: General Hernan Alfaro Cortez; Colonel Juan Castillo Figueroa; Colonel Oscar Flores Sandoval; Colonel Carlos Calderon Gisbert; and Lieutenant Colonel Edmundo San Martin Ballivian.

Supreme Military Court of Justice

Members: General Casto Arteaga Balderrama; Colonel Genaro Zegarra Sarmiento; and Colonel Carlos Calderon de la Riva.

Permanent Military Court of Justice

President; General Lorgio Justiniano Flores.
Members: Colonels Jaime Angulo Tezanos Pinto, and German Vargas Picolet.

Armed Forces National Development Corporation (COFADENA)

General Arsenio Gonzalez Rojas; Colonel Augusto Sanchez Valle; Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Guardia Viana; and Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Quiroga Gomez.

Armed Forces Command

General Abel Martinez Mendez; General Mario Escobari Guerra; Colonel Javier Pammo Rodriguez; and Colonel Guillermo Adriazola Deheza.

Eduardo Avalos School of High National Studies

Commander: General Raul Ramallo Velarde.
Chief of Studies: Colonel Jose Quiros Antequera.

Army Staff

Chief of G-1 (Personnel): General Mario Vargas Salinas.
Chief of G-2 (Intelligence): General Macario Beltran Mancilla.
Chief of G-3 (Operations): General Hugo Flores Gironda
Chief of G-4 (Logistics): General Angel Vargas Tejada.
Chief of G-5 (Finance): General Humberto Campos Valdez.
Chief of G-6 (Military Institutes): Colonel Jose Meruvia Lazarte.

Army Engineer Corps

Commander: General Bernardino Zurita Ayala.
Deputy Commander: Colonel Jaime Cardozo Vargas.

Mariscal Sucre Engineering Military School

Commander: General Carlos Morales Nunez del Prado.
Chief of Studies: Colonel Alejandro Mejia Gamboa.

First Army Division (with headquarters in Viacha)

Commander: Colonel Roberto Encinas Soto.

Second Army Division (with headquarters in Oruro)

Commander: Colonel Reynaldo Vazquez Sempertegui.

Third Army Division (with headquarters in Villamontes)

Commander: General Simon Zubieta Sanabria.

Fourth Army Division (with headquarters in Camiri)

Commander: Colonel Roberto Ramalio Torres.

Fifth Army Division (with headquarters in Robore)

Commander: Haroldo Pinto Guzman.

Sixth Army Division (with headquarters in Trinidad)

Commander: General Iver Antelo Gill.

Seventh Army Division (with headquarters in Cochabamba)

Commander: General Victor Vargas Rios

Command and General Staff School (with headquarters in Cochabamba)

Commander: General Guillermo Velez Salmon.
Chief of Studies: Colonel Jorge Moreira Rojas.

Officers Improvement School

Commander: Colonel Edwin Peredo Camacho.
Chief of Studies: Lieutenant Colonel Freddy Mercado Antequera.

Eighth Army Division (with headquarters in Santa Cruz)

Commander: General Gary Prado Salmon.

10th Army Division (with headquarters in Beni)

Commander: General Hermes Fellman Forteza.

NICARAGUAN MISSION TO DISCUSS TRADE FINANCING

PY211555 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Feb 84 p 14

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- The opening of a new credit line for the financing of Brazilian exports to Nicaragua and the issuance of $10 million granted some years ago to the Sandinist government are some of the issues that Edmundo Jarquin, the International Reconstruction Fund minister of Nicaragua, will discuss during the negotiations he will hold with Brazilian economic officials beginning today.

Edmundo Jarquin arrived in Brasilia yesterday. He is accompanied by Ambassador Aldo Dias Lacayo, the general director of the Department of Foreign Policy for Bilateral Affairs of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, and by Fernando Guzman, the Central Bank vice president. They are here to hold negotiations with Carlos Viacava, director of the Brazilian foreign trade department (CACEX); Affonso Celso Pastore, the Central Bank president; Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro; and with Mailson de Nogrega, the Finance Ministry secretary general.

SOVIET SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO END 8-DAY VISIT

PY220210 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Tomorrow a Soviet scientific mission ends an 8-day visit to Brazil. The mission came to our country to visit several research institutes, universities, and other organizations involved in the country's technical and scientific development. The group is headed by (Aleksandr Blezakov), head of the Asia and Latin America Department of the USSR Science and Technology State Committee.

During the visit, which started on 14 February in response to an invitation extended by (Dilauro Cavalcanti), president of the CNPQ [National Council for Scientific and Technological Cooperation], talks were held regarding possible technical and scientific cooperation between Brazil and the Soviet Union.

According to information released by the CNPQ in Brasilia, it was agreed that five Brazilian missions will visit the Soviet Union during 1984. These missions are related to the fields of biology, ecology, biochemistry, stratigraphy, standardization, normalization, metrology, [word indistinct], and agriculture.

OPPOSITION LEADER OPPOSES ALVAREZ VISIT

PY181655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0456 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 Feb (EFE) -- The leader of the largest opposition group in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies today "repudiated" the official visit that Uruguayan President General Gregorio Alvarez will make to the country toward the end of this month, and asked for the cancellation of the visit. Jose Freitas Nobre, leader of the deputies of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], stated in a communique that Alvarez will come to Brazil "in what seems to be his last and most desperate attempt to obtain international support for his government."

SARAIVA TO VISIT PAKISTAN, INDIA IN EARLY MARCH

PY162355 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Itamaraty this afternoon reported that Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro will pay an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 3-4 March and to India on 5-7 March.

COMMUNISTS TO NEGOTIATE SUPPORT FOR ELECTION

PY211233 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Feb 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo -- The majority of Communists -- in the ranks of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB), the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), and the Revolutionary Movement 8 October (MR-8) -- are preparing to negotiate their political participation and support for presidential hopefuls who will vie for the nation's presidency in the Electoral College through indirect balloting because of the possibility that the direct election process will not be restored to elect President Figueiredo's successor.

Despite their differences, the Communists -- with the exception of those headed by former PCB Secretary General Luis Carlos Prestes and a group of dissidents of the PCB in Sao Paulo who do not want negotiations -- have a point in common: They reject Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party) whom they accuse of being "a radical." They prefer Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves as an eventual candidate for president in the Electoral College or as a mediator in negotiations with the government. The Communists say they are engaged in the campaign for direct elections, but the factions are accusing one another of not being militant in the campaign.

LOOTING, POLITICS IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS

PY211705 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] New scenes of looting in the drought-stricken northeast: Victims from rural areas invaded the city of (Iracuba) in Bahia State, demanding water and staples. Prefect Maria Aparecida (Frank) managed to get some (?staples) and control of the situation. She immediately requested urgent assistance for the victims from the Civil Defense in Salvador. In (Aguacelas), Pernambuco State, the prefect has no means to aid 1,200 victims, who could begin looting the state's general stores. However, the secretary of finance and mining will be leaving for Brasilia today to seek assistance. There are 93 municipalities in a state of emergency in Jequitinhonha Valley. The state of the Sao Francisco River gives an idea of the extent of the drought. This time of the year it usually floods, but now it is 2 meters below its normal level.

Along with the drought, there is political maneuvering. A serious misunderstanding has arisen between the Ceara governor and the Interior Ministry over the water supply in Fortaleza. An agreement was struck between the Superintendency for Development of the Northeast (Sudene) and [words indistinct] of the state for the drilling of artesian wells with the participation of the state. Suddenly the Interior Ministry drafted another document assigning this service solely to the drought-fighting projects department. Governor Gonzaga da Motta vented his anger by saying that this was discrimination against Ceara State because its governor supports Aureliano Chaves' candidacy. [Interior Minister] Andreazza has said that this is not so. Today the Sudene superintendent will be in Fortaleza to investigate the matter. [words indistinct] Ceara's capital only has enough water for another 1 and 1/2 months.

ARMY DENIES CHARGES OF U.S. ARMS PURCHASES

PY211455 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0326 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 Feb (EFE) -- Today through a communique the Chilean Army said that it has no knowledge of an alleged purchase of arms from the United States. This charge was made in Peru. Press reports from Lima noted that Peruvian Armed Forces chiefs have asked President Fernando Belaunde Terry to request information from the U.S. and Chilean Embassies about the alleged sale of arms. According to the reports, which were published in a local newspaper, Chile has reportedly purchased several arms from the United States, including nuclear missiles.

REPORTAGE ON REACTIONS TO ALMEYDA ARREST

Democratic Alliance Protests

PY172130 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Today a special commission of the Democratic Alliance visited Manuel Almeyda, president of the People's Democratic Movement [MDP], in prison. The visit was a consequence of the agreement reached within the Democratic Alliance. The commission was headed by Mario Sharpe, president of the opposition alliance, and the Socialist Julio Estuardo. The visit took place at 0900 and those who saw Almeyda said that he seemed calm and convinced that he has not commited any crime and was grateful to receive the support and solidarity of the opposition political group.

The Democratic Alliance issued a communique terming the MDP leader's arrest as arbitrary. The communique added that the Interior Ministry's order for Almeyda's arrest represents a serious oversight of the right of free expression. The communique pointed out that despite the difference of opinion with Manuel Almeyda and the party he represents, the Democratic Alliance has publicly voiced its disagreements with the current state of affairs in the country. The Democratic Alliance then rejected the measures taken against Almeyda and voiced its solidarity with him.

Jarpa Refutes Cheysson Criticism

PY211733 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0241 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Santiago, 20 Feb (EFE) -- Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa today refuted opinions issued "by a French minister who referred to Chile in unusual terms" regarding the arrest of leftist leader Manuel Almeyda. The French minister to whom the Chilean interior minister is referring is Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister. Jarpa said "that the words of this French politician show either a complete lack of knowledge of the issue or the bad faith with which Chilean and Latin American issues in general are viewed."

The Chilean minister added that "he should know that it was not the Chilean Government that arrested Almeyda because of a speech he made, but rather the courts, acting at the request of the government, which convicted him of violating a law that was not issued by this government but was issued a long time ago by a different government." Jarpa noted that "this is a legal issue that is in the hands of the courts. It was not the government that ordered his arrest," thus alluding to what happened previously "during other governments when the National Party Board was arrested without a court order, something that has never happened during this government."

The interior minister added that "the French minister should know that in Chile we live according to the Constitution and the law and that we uphold human rights. We do not need anyone to give us lessons on this matter." Jarpa said that "the French don't exactly have a clean record in this regard. It would suffice to ask the Arabs how they were treated by the French in Algeria to understand that it is not the French Government that should give us lessons."

Protest Note Sent to France

PY211804 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Chilean Government has categorically protested a French Foreign Ministry statement. The Chilean Foreign Ministry note was submitted to French Ambassador Leon Bouvier. In the note, the Chilean Foreign Ministry categorically protests the incident and it expresses its displeasure for an attitude which constitutes and unacceptable interference in Chilean domestic affairs. It adds that this attitude does not contribute to the respectful attitude that must prevail in French-Chilean relations. The Chilean protest note is in response to a French Foreign Ministry statement regarding the arrest of Manuel Almeyda.

The Chilean note also states that French official opinion in this regard shows a regrettable lack of knowledge on the real Chilean situation and the legal reasons on which Almeyda's arrest is based. It adds that the statement issued in Paris shows an obvious hastiness in commenting on the situation, the nature of which is either completely unknown or misunderstood, while [words indistinct] the objectivity of the Chilean courts.

Mario (Vargas), the Foreign Ministry foreign policy department general director, supervised the submission of the Chilean Foreign Ministry protest note to the French ambassador.

REFUSAL TO GRANT SAFE-CONDUCTS CRITICIZED

PY171416 Santiago Radio Mineria in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Gabriel Valdes, president of the Chilean Christian Democrats, has said that the goverment's handling of the petition and the chief of state's refusal to grant safe-conducts to the four persons who took asylum in the nunciature have created a difficult international problem. Valdes said that such an attitude, at variance with Chilean traditions, is an inexcusable disregard of a personal request by the holy father. Valdes added that the condemnation of terrorism cannot invalidate the right to asylum granted by international law.

JARPA CITES 'POLITICAL MANEUVERS' AGAINST REGIME

PY210241 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has stated that the Chilean Government has tried to deal with the case of the four extremists staying at the nunciature with the highest consideration of his holiness, but in keeping with the Constitution and the laws. In an informal meeting with newsmen at La Moneda Palace, Jarpa discussed various aspects of national life.

[Begin Jarpa recording] The government is not making any effort to avert a stoppage, but it is dedicated to solving problems affecting some sectors. In this respect, I can say that negotiations and talks with the transportation sector have been underway for several months and have already yielded very positive results. Out of the 10,000 bus owners having economic problems, 8,000 can renegotiate their debt with the Production Development Corporation [Corfo], which is also giving financial support to other sectors indebted with private creditors or banks. Corfo is also helping them find a solution to their problems. Therefore, these actions are not just being taken now in the face of a possible stoppage or as a way to avert difficulties. I repeat, the government has always sought to solve these problems. [end recording]

He regarded calls for a stoppage as political maneuvering. He also described as a typically political maneuver against the Chilean Government the international pressure to extradite German citizen Walter Rauff. He charged that political advantage is being taken in the case of the four extremists staying at the nunciature.

[Begin Jarpa recording] The government has tried to deal with the nunciature problems with the highest consideration of his holiness, but in keeping with the Constitution and the laws. It has been said that a treaty has been violated. This is false. No treaty has been violated. Those who made this charge were unable to say which treaty has been violated. They said that the extraterritorial principle established in the Vienna Convention has been violated. The Vienna Convention does not include this principle the way it was interpreted here.

It has also been said that the holy father requested that safe-conducts be issued to these persons to leave Chile because he has doubts about the state of law in force in Chile. This charge was made in a magazine editorial. The problem lies in the fact that the president of the board of directors of this magazine is a well-known monsignor. Thus, we were quite surprised that this monsignor, whose opinion is rather important given his rank in the Catholic hierarchy, may have approved this editorial which questions the existence of a state of law in Chile and contends that this is the reason his holiness is asking that safe-conducts be issued. [end recording]

Asked about reports that the government will wait for a Supreme Court ruling on the nunciature case before deciding what course of action to take, Jarpa said:

[Begin Jarpa recording] I believe that is not the case right now but, in my own personal opinion, it would be useful to wait for the Supreme Court decision as to whether the extremists are being tried in the proper venue and with the appropriate procedures. This would be useful to clear up many questions stemming from the propaganda campaign orchestrated on this issue. In any case, the government will always obey, as it has done in the past without any exceptions, the decision of the courts, of the Supreme Court. [end recording]

Asked whether the possibility of transferring the extremists from the nunciature to another residence also protected by diplomatic immunity is being studied, Jarpa said this is a matter that should be decided by the nuncio. He said that any request by the nunciature will be studied carefully and expeditiously in order to solve this problem.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES VISIT OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT

PA211808 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will pay an official visit to Colombia on 26-28 March, according to an announcement made today at Narino Palace. The tour by the Mexican chief of state is considered of utmost importance, due to the development of the pacification efforts being undertaken by the Contadora Group in Central America.

During his meeting with President Belisario Betancur, the two heads of state will sign a declaration pledging to respect the right of self-determination of peoples, and recognizing the urgency of achieving peace in Central America. In addition, the two countries will establish conditions for bilateral trade.

ARMED FORCES COMMENT ON GUERRILLA PLANS

PA172009 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- The Armed Forces have said they hope that the subversives will end their violence, and cautioned that peace must be a unilateral decision of the guerrillas since the government cannot agree on a truce with crime.

Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros granted an exclusive interview to CARACOL in Caracas, where today he will sign an agreement with his Venezuelan counterpart, Humberto Alcalde Alvarez, to fight drug trafficking and guerrilla activities along the border. Gen Matamoros said it has been verified that there is an alliance between the subversives and drug traffickers.

The minister said this alliance has allowed the guerrillas to purchase arms and ammunition abroad and has enabled the traffickers to increase their profits.

Referring to the peace process in Colombia, Gen Matamoros said that the government presence will be felt and that it will continue to protect the people and maintain the system under which the people live. He said: Let's hope that those who are disrupting order will make a sincere effort to stop and that this effort will become permanent for the good of the country. Gen Matamoros made this statement to comment on reports that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have a draft truce that will be announced before the 11 March elections.

Gen Matamoros said that intelligence services recently discovered that Latin American guerrilla groups reached an agreement in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, that calls for a general uprising in this part of the continent. For this reason, it is necessary to double the efforts to fight subversion, he said.

Gen Matamoros said he was surprised by the resignation of his colleague Bernardo Ramirez from the Communications Ministry. He said: I regret that decision.

FARC GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY MASSACRE PEASANTS

PA172323 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 2-B

[Report by Jairo Cala Otero]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 13 Feb -- Five more peasants have been gunned down by a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] cell in Plan de Armas corregimiento, Landazuri municipality, in southern Santander, the police have reported.

The crime occurred in circumstances similar to those of a killing that took place 2 weeks ago in the jurisdiction of Cimitarra.

Armed with G-3 rifles and dressed in Army uniforms, the rebels assembled the peasants, whose names they had written on a piece of paper, and killed them in front of the entire population.

A survivor reported that Alfonso Castillo, Abraham Cardenas, Reynaldo Bautista, Humberto Velasco, and Rafael Cardenas were killed. A report that reached Bucaramanga indicates that the five dead were scouts in that area and had led the topographic commissions that the Santander Government had sent into the region to prepare surveys for the new roads planned as part of the "Roads for Peace" project.

With the killings in Landazuri, a total of 23 peasants have been murdered in cold blood in less than a month by the guerrillas in Santander. The first 14 were natives of the areas of La Traviata, San Juan de la Carrilera, and Puerto Romero, in Cimitmarra municipality. They were beheaded with machetes after being shot to death. Last week four other peasants were found in Cano Dorada.

M-19-FARC Command Captured

PA181610 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- The members of a subversive command composed of M-19 [19 April Movement] and FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] militants who were captured by the police today in Bogota are the same people who attempted a terrorist attack on 70 vehicles of the Bogota Express business 2 months ago.

According to investigations by secret police agents, Ricardo Catueno, a Salvadoran, had been directing the subversive activities of the guerrilla organizations. Catueno had taken advantage of the amnesty and had a plane ticket to Mexico and money in dollars, provided by the authorities, for traveling expenses.

It has also been reported that the extremists had blackmailed and kidnapped Jaime Campos Guzman, and had requested a 1-million-peso ransom.

It has been established that the members of this combined group carried out an attack on several vehicles used to distribute food and beverages. This attack took place on 23 December in the Compatir neighborhood of southern Bogota.

The members of this faction have identified themselves as militants from the FARC's Ubaldo Ricardo Franco and the M-19's Leonardo Gomez Cortez groups.

Both the prisoners and the seized arms are at the disposal of the authorities.

ROME PAPER INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER

PM161644 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 14 Feb 84 p 6

[Interview with Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez by Saverio Tutino in Rome on 13 February]

[Excerpt] Rome — [Question] How do you intend to interest the European countries in your particular problems?

Answer: We know that there will be no real recovery in the North without an immediate start on solving the South's problems. We are seeking not a confrontation but the opening of a dialogue to seek together the solution to problems that now involve everyone. We are all victims of the same crisis, the most serious to have hit the world in 50 years. This crisis originated in the economically advanced countries, creating imbalances in monetary and fiscal policy and having repercussions everywhere. In the seventies Latin America was stifled by credits, then interest rates rose sharply. Submerged by the easy allocation of foreign currency, which was not matched by a sufficient increase in exports, our countries now have a very large foreign debt and, lacking resources, are forced to repay these credits to industrial countries that are continually raising customs and other kinds of barriers. We have virtually become net exporters of capital. Now we must protect ourselves against this within an integrated regional framework, renegotiating the repayment of debts one by one!

Question: Italy's cooperation with the underdeveloped countries is designed to encourage those countries' self-propulsion toward gradual development rather than a leap toward advanced technological developments. What is your opinion?

Answer: Quito stresses that the most suitable mechanism for surmounting the crisis in our countries is our own effort. But it will not be enough unless there is adequate international cooperation, and this cooperation must be proportionate to each country's situation.

Question: Argentine President Alfonsin said in Bogota that the United States exerts a negative influence on Latin American trade.

Answer: We agree. The protectionist measures taken by the United States must be removed. Thus the system of constantly increasing commissions and profits must be corrected. There must be a reform of the entire present system of international trade and of its institutions and bodies, which date back to 1944, and they must be replaced with a new financial and monetary structure. For the first time Quito is putting forward specific points, not mere complaints.

Question: Is this thanks to social democracy, which seems to be making progress throughout Latin America?

Answer: It is true that social democratic presidents have been elected in Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Venezuela; probably soon in Ecuador, too. In Colombia Belisario Betancur is close to social democracy. But the main thing that can be appreciated even now is the new democratic vocation spreading throughout the subcontinent, against the use of force in conflicts between neighboring countries and in favor of the Contadora Group's peace initiative for Central America.

Question: The new solidarity seems to extend beyond -- if not actually in an opposite direction to -- the traditional OAS framework so dear to the United States.

Answer: Recently the OAS has been paralyzed. Perhaps it is a reflection of the economic crisis, but above all it is a result of the blatant violations of OAS principles by the government in Washington. Grenada is a typical example. This is why the four Contadora countries shouldered the entire weight of the Central American issue, thus averting a generalized conflict. Without Contadora, Central America would probably already be like the Middle East, El Salvador like Lebanon.

Question: You recently normalized relations with Cuba. Do you believe that there can be detente between Cuba and the United States?

Answer: We have resolved an incident dating back to 1981 which took place at our embassy in Havana. Our ambassadors have returned to their missions, having been recalled following the Cuban security forces' entry into our embassy to arrest refugees who had taken our diplomats hostage. There are problems of sovereignty between Cuba and the United States. I can only hope that everything will be done to encourage a dialogue at the highest level.

BRIEFS

OIL SALES -- Beginning next March, the Republic of Korea will purchase 5,000 additional barrels of crude oil per day, thus raising to 20,000 the amount of its daily purchases, according to long-term sales contracts with the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE. [Excerpt] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Feb 84 PA]

OPPOSITION HOLDS MEETING, DEMANDS DEMOCRACY

PY201410 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 13

[Excerpts] During a meeting organized by the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] to commemorate the anniversary of the "February Revolution," the National Accord demanded the complete democratization of the country, reinforcement of moral and political values, and the recovery of the economy through the enforcement of austerity measures. The meeting was held at the Plaza Italia under strict police security measures, but there were no incidents. The organizers of the meeting, which started at 2050 and ended at 2350, estimated that 2,000 persons attended. Also present at the ceremony were Brazilian legislators.

Humberto Perez Caceres, who was the last speaker at last night's ceremony, said that "when one sees a group of fighters like the ones who are gathered here tonight, one has the irresistible urge to say many things since it has been so long since we were last able to meet, to exchange views, and to discuss our concerns, our heartaches, and our hopes. First, I would like to reassert the complete solidarity of the PRF National Board with its president, Euclides Acevedo, who is fulfilling a party assignment."

Perez Caceres then paid tribute to Colorado Popular Movement (MOPOCO) and Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] leaders like Mario L. Mallorquin, Miguel A. Gonzales Casabianca, and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin. He said: "Here with us are the MOPOCO leaders, gentlemen who are struggling for the ideal of freedom and democracy and who have returned to the country after 25 years of exile. But they came without any vengeful feelings and without hatred. They have come to join our struggle."

He added that "we think of ourselves as the brothers of peasants, of workers, of students, and of Colorado professionals, because all of them are experiencing the same repressive policy and are the victims of a policy of hunger, since hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, and sickness affect all people alike, without regard to political leanings."

Emilio Rey, deputy secretary of the Paraguayan Confederation of Workers in Exile (CPTE), also delivered a speech at the Plaza Italia ceremony during which he announced that from now on CPTE members "are back to raise the banner of the worker's struggle in Paraguay." He added: "Tonight Paraguayans have overcome their fears; this is the end of the dictatorship that has caused so much harm."

Romulo Perina, representing Christian Democracy, noted that we must promote the unity of all Paraguayans. We must crush all myths; no political party must believe it is the sole depository of truth. He added: "Tonight I want to say that Comrades Domingo Laino and Luis Alfonso Resck must return to Paraguay."

FEBRERISTA PRESIDENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY210025 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 14

[Text] Madrid (EFE) — Euclides Acevedo, president of the opposition Febrerista Party, has stated in Madrid that President Alfredo Stroessner will not be succeeded by his son and that the crisis that Paraguay is enduring will become even worse during the next 12 months. During a press conference, Acevedo explained that the democratic wave in the Southern Cone and Raul Alfonsin's victory in neighboring Argentina "have troubled Stroessner, but we believe that the crisis in Paraguay will grow worse during the next 12 months."

He added that, therefore, "we advocate the need for a new constitution and request a frank, public dialogue with the Army, the church, the political forces, and even with the U.S. Embassy, which will allow the establishment of democracy in Paraguay." Acevedo believes that Stroessner's death is not necessary, but that his exit from power would permit democracy to develop in Paraguay. Acevedo said: "I do not believe that Stroessner, who is in very good health, will be succeeded by his son, because Paraguay is not Haiti."

Acevedo, who belongs to the Socialist International, added that he does not suggest that the Spanish Government cut its aid to Paraguay but that, rather, an investigation into the Spanish "black money" [plata negra], which supports General Stroessner's regime, is necessary.

At the press conference the president of the Febrerista Party was accompanied by writer Augusto Roa Bastos and Ruben Bareiro, a delegate of the Paraguayan National Accord living in exile. The plans for a political transition in Paraguay were established by the National Accord in Paris on 12 February by the Febrerista Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Authentic Liberal Party, and the Colorado Popular Movement. Acevedo said that "so far, Stroessner's 'atypical' dictatorship, which is marked by fascist characteristics, tolerates political parties up to a certain degree and that it has been supported by corruption and repression." He then pointed out that "if, as a consequence of this press conference, I am not allowed back into the country, I will seek asylum in Argentina."

Acevedo recalled that although there are only 15 political prisoners in the country, 1,600,000 Paraguayans -- of a population of 3 million -- from the cultural and economic point of view live in exile, most of them in Argentina. The leader of the opposition political party then said that "Paraguay, in turn, has been the refuge of many former Nazis and U.S. interests, and that a large part of the Argentine repressive apparatus has sought refuge in the country." Acevedo pointed out that "the worst problem for Stroessner's dictatorship is its lack of rallying power and the fact that judges and the law are used as instruments of repression. But dictatorships," he added, "are not immortal."

Acevedo held a meeting with representatives of Spain's governing Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] and is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Regarding the Spanish king's pending visit to Paraguay, Acevedo said that "it could be very positive because it would supply didactic information on the Spanish democratic experience and would serve as an instrument to show Stroessner how distasteful a dictatorship is."

A high-ranking representative of the Paraguayan opposition, who is visiting Madrid, will ask Spanish political forces to call for a massive demonstration to support freedom in Paraguay. A delegation headed by Euclides Acevedo, president of the Febrerista Party and president of the Paraguayan delegation that recently signed the National Accord in Paris, writer Augusto Roa Bastos, and Ruben Bareiro, delegate of the National Accord, have arrived to seek support. The Paraguayan opposition, joined together as the National Accord of Paris, has as its main purpose of returning Paraguay to a democracy, obtaining the freedom of political prisoners, and voicing its solidarity with those struggling for a return to democracy. The Paraguayan delegation has held a meeting with Elena Flores, PSOE foreign relations representative, a party with which they maintain an "excellent relationship."

The National Accord of Paris allowed the meeting of Paraguayan Christian Democrats, Liberals, and Socialists to sign a political commitment for a democratic opening in their country, following the example of the Spanish democratic junta that existed before the political transition in this country.

ARMY COMMANDER ON CHILE'S PURCHASE OF U.S. ARMS

PY211411 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Army Commander General Julian Julia Freyre today said that Peru will take appropriate measures if the Chilean purchase of U.S. nuclear weapons is confirmed. General Julia Freyre disclosed that this matter was discussed during a meeting held by War Minister General Oscar Brush Noel and the Army chief of staff with President Belaunde.

After pointing out that an arms race is detrimental to the development of our people, General Julia Freyre said that if the newspaper report is true, Peru would also have to invest in the purchase of weapons because, if our neighbors begin to arm themselves, it has to be presumed that they are seeking an objective.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED IN 11 PROVINCES

PY172135 Paris AFP in Spanish 1910 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (AFP) -- The Peruvian Government today decided to extend the state of emergency in 11 provinces of the central mountain region where antisubversive operations against the Communist-Maoist Party Shining Path are being carried out.

The decision was announced by Interior Minister Luis Percovich during a press conference held at the end of today's cabinet meeting. Percovich also announced that the government has decided to expel several foreigners, including five U.S. citizens involved in drug trafficking.

SHINING PATH KILLS EIGHT PERSONS IN AYACUCHO

PY180030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2121 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (EFE) -- A commando group of the Peruvian Maoist organization Shining Path has raided the village of San Pedro de Cachis in Ayacucho Department and shot to death eight persons.

According to news reports, the Shining Path extremists killed the deputy mayor of the village, Florencio Flores, and seven other unidentified people. Before killing the people, the terrorists charged their victims with being "government flunkeys" and police collaborators. In keeping with Shining Path methods, the victims were taken to the public square and shot.

A police detachment has left Ayacucho for San Pedro de Cachis, police sources reported.

Meanwhile, two police stations in Cerro de Pasco and a bank were attacked by alleged terrorists who used explosives and firearms. Considerable damage was caused, but there were no casualties. Cerro de Pasco is the capital of Pasco Department in the central mountain region. The attack on Cerro de Pasco came in the wake of another attack against a Civil Guard (rural police) station in Pillao, in the same department. The attack caused damage, but no injuries.

HEAD OF AYACUCHO LAWYERS COLLEGE ARRESTED

PY161252 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0226 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 15 Feb (EFE) -- The head of the Lawyers College of Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, was arrested today because of his possible involvement in the massive escape of inmates (terrorists and drug traffickers) from Ayacucho prison in 1982.

Mario Cavalglianti Gamboa, who is also head of the Human Rights Defense Commission in Ayacucho, was arrested by the antiterrorist police as he arrived at Lima airport. Cavalglianti talked to the press before being arrested. He said that the number of disappeared persons reported to the attorney general's office -- 1,500 -- might be inaccurate because many cases have not been reported. He also said that the new head of the Military-Political Command, General Adrian Huaman, shows "more sense" in handling the antiterrorist struggle.

OFFICIALS TO ATTEND CEREMONIES IN MANAGUA

PY201246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2013 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes Lingan and Dagoberto Laynes, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, today left for Managua, where they will attend ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of General Cesar Augusto Sandino.

CHILEAN ARRESTED, JAILED FOR 'SPYING ACTIVITIES'

PY212035 Paris AFP in Spanish 1514 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb (AFP) — It has been learned from judicial sources that Hernan Toro Pinedo, 33, a Chilean citizen who entered Peru clandestinely several times, was jailed last night under a warrant for alleged spy activities in Peru.

Judge Ruben Dario Mansilla, who is hearing this case, spotted obvious contradictions during the several hours of proceedings. This led him to issue an arrest warrant, which will be followed by a criminal trial and a definitive sentence.

Toro Pinedo was detained in Piura, a town located 1,033 km north of Lima, while he was shooting pictures that were regarded as being of militarily strategic significance. He also took pictures of an oil pipeline in northern Peru and of the Bayovar phosphate mill, also located in Piura.

It was stated that Toro Pinedo was found in possession of road maps and large-scale maps of areas that the Armed Forces regard as strategic military sectors.

It was reported at the courts that Toro Pinedo disguised his alleged spying activities by working as an engineer for an oil contracting company.

DE LA MADRID RECEIVES NEW CYPRUS ENVOY, COMMENTS

NC201909 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid has stated that his country wants a just solution to the Cyprus issue in a united Cyprus where the two communities can live in peace. He also said that he will continue to support the just cause of Cyprus in all international forums. He stressed that Mexico strongly condemns military intervention and refuses to accept interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states.

De la Madrid's statement was made during the presentation of the credentials of Khristoforou, the Cyprus Ambassador to Mexico, who expressed to the Mexican president the warm greetings of President Kiprianou and briefed him on the latest developments in Cyprus.

PEMEX REPORTS ON PRODUCTION, SALES, EARNINGS

FL182005 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1753 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex reported today that of the 2,666,559 barrels of crude oil produced daily during the first 10 months of 1983, 1,000,270 barrels were used to supply Pemex refineries and the rest was sold abroad.

The state enterprise reported that its refineries provide industry, commerce, service stations, and especially motor vehicle owners with a wide range of petroleum products. These products include liquefied petroleum gas, gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, lubricants, grease, carbon black, paraffin, and coke [coque] in addition to products for the chemical and petrochemical industries.

The nominal daily processing capacities of Pemex refineries are as follows: Azcapotzalco, 105,000 barrels; Cadereyta, 235,000 barrels; Madero, 185,000 barrels, Minatitlan, 200,000 barrels; Salina Cruz, 200,000 barrels; Tula, 170,000 barrels; Poza Rica (?150,000) barrels; and Reunosa, 16,000 barrels.

Pemex reported that it is working to increase the installed capacity of the Tula refinery by 150,000 barrels daily, the Salina Cruz refinery by 300,000 barrels daily, and other refineries by various amounts so that future demand for Pemex petroleum products can be satisfied.

Total crude production in 1981 was 2,312,144 barrels [daily]. In 1982 it was 2,746,338 barrels. In the first 10 months of 1983, it was 2,666,559 barrels daily.

In 1982, Pemex refineries processed an average of 1,199,103 barrels daily. Preliminary figures for 1983 show a slight increase to 1,270,000 barrels.

Average daily crude sales abroad of 1.5 million barrels earned $15.6227 billion in 1982 and $16 billion in 1983, according to Pemex.

INDEPENDENT GROUP SUPPORTS BARLETTA CANDIDACY

PA211755 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] [Monitored in progress] ...presidential candidacy of Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

[Begin recording] ...headed by Samuel Lewis Galindo, formally expressed its support for the presidential candidacy of Nicolas Ardito Barletta during an event held yesterday at the Holiday Inn in Paitilla [area of Panama City].

Ardito Barletta received support from entrepreneurs, businessmen, professionals, union leaders, and women during the mass event last night.

Lewis Galindo explained the MIDE's [Democratic Independent Movement] support for Ardito Barletta's presidential candidacy this way:

[Lewis] Why Barletta? Because Barletta symbolizes an evolutionary change toward a better society, without any drastic measures that would polarize the Panamanian people in an antagonistic manner, involving a grave danger to our social peace and institutions; [applause] because his youthfulness, dynamism, progressive mind, and keen knowledge of the serious problems plaguing the world at large and Panama in particular will allow him to seek -- through modern concepts and well-directed actions -- a speedy solution to the serious and growing unemployment problem and to promote, once more, the implementation of housing, school, water system, and feeder road construction projects; because Barletta is a moderate man with a clear-cut political leaning based on solid democratic principles; and because, out of temperament and conviction, he will try to conciliate and harmonize the differences that tend to separate Panamanians. [end recording]

PAID 'PRD' AD CRITICIZES BARLETTA NOMINATION

PA171947 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 84 p 6 A

[Paid advertisement signed by the "PRD" Democratic Revolutionary Party: "More Torrijist Than Ever"]

[Text] Today, 13 February, is an historic day for all Torrijists. It is the birthday of General Omar Torrijos. It is a fitting moment to reflect on the political situation, and particularly on our country's future.

We must critically analyze the mistakes committed by those who at one time or another represented the process at the highest levels of power, and condemn the sabotage of Torrijos' economic strategy and the scavengers who have become rampant since Omar's murder [asesinato]. We must also analyze the conspiracy against the measures proposed to overcome the economic crisis, which have prevented the state from giving the necessary solutions to social problems, particularly the growing unemployment. Going against Torrijos' principles, a proposal was made to solve the problems by favoring U.S. investment, thereby hurting private Panamanian enterprises and sacrificing the gains our people had made. The proposal to transnationalize our economy is based on the plan to "Reaganize" the country, which means eliminating Torrijism. Reagan not only eliminated [elimino] Torrijos, he is also out to eliminate Torrijos' social and political programs.

Paredes, who was aware of this goal, played the anti-Torrijist game. Paredes was defeated, and Nicolas Ardito Barletta is now the [Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD] candidate. Those who planned this strategy believed that Torrijism was finished, disbanded, and demoralized. That is why they are advocating the return of the oligarchy that was ousted in 1968 because of their ineptness.

The government alliance is being presented to us without any definite program. What they are really doing is openly sharing the booty, against the democratic procedure outlined by Omar, to the extent that the Torrijist forces, which are the majority in the country, are not represented by the Barletta-Del Valle-Esquivel ticket. This discriminatory formula has upset the political balance. This alliance is really the result of a long process to dismantle Torrijism.

The center-left formula is represented by [former President and opposition candidate] Arnulfo Arias and his gang of pro-U.S. conspirators. The "opposition" formula does not represent a true alternative, thereby failing to guarantee to the masses that the gains of the last 15 years] will be maintained.

Therefore, the PRD leaders, by endorsing the ticket, have become estranged from the rank and file and no longer represent it. This has produced a leadership crisis resulting in distrust and lack of authority, eliminating the possibilities of uniting the party.

Throughout the long negotiations aimed at having the elections reflect the true correlation of social and political forces, the strength and scope of the Torrijist sectors have been overlooked. We therefore demand that these forces be represented in any ticket that the PRD may present to the country. We cannot allow the nominations for president, legislators, mayors, and representatives to leave out the men and political groups that carried Omar's unwavering banners.

Under these circumstances, the center-left ticket headed by Barletta does not guarantee the political balance the country needs to face the economic crisis as a basic condition to preserve social peace.

We therefore reject this oligarchic proposal and ask for a regrouping of Torrijist forces, on the basis of the alternatives and the social and political maturity contained in the Panamanian bishops' pastoral letter, and on the party's program and principles, as a viable platform to join the electoral campaign. In this way, the people's interests will not be jeopardized in favor of foreign formulas.

That is why we claim that the political confrontation should be between Torrijists and the anti-Torrijist traitors who represent the past.

MOLIRENA CONVENTION SUPPORTS ARNULFO ARIAS

PA212331 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Feb 84 pp 28, A-10

["Excerpts" of a speech delivered by Cesar Arrocha Graell, president of the Panamanian Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA, at the MOLIRENA National Convention on 19 February in Santiago, Veraguas]

[Excerpts] When the leaders of the MOLIRENA ideology created the party, our basic commitment was to the need to establish an opposition and to unify the efforts of all democratic parties in the struggle to create a state of law.

To realize this goal, we have had to make a prolonged effort, reflected in long and complex negotiations that often seemed insurmountable. It has been necessary to solve many problems and to accept great sacrifices. It is only natural that this should be so, because, although there are many points of concurrence and shared objectives among the various democratic organizations that oppose the current regime, there are also many differences, most of which are either tactical or strategic. However, the fatherland's sacred interests, the supreme duty and right to consolidate democracy and to construct a government structure that is based solidly on rights, liberty, peace, and socioeconomic stability, are much more important than passing differences that might divide us.

Because of this, our National Convention serves to formalize that unity among all of the opposition parties, so that we may bury the last traces of the so-called "process," which in the past 15 years has transformed our prosperous nation into a poor and indebted one, under an uncontrollable avalanche of votes.

This is why we are seeking the unification of the opposition with all of our might and capabilities, and without demanding high-level positions. Demonstrating a high degree of patriotism, we have sacrificed well-founded goals because we feel that the most important thing is to consolidate a common front, bringing the great majority together at all levels and throughout the country so that there will be not the slightest doubt that Panama's national will demands and insists on a change in all government structures, to save the country from corruption, incompetence, improvisation, and the disorder that have taken it to bankruptcy.

We have thus decided to support Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, because his political personality, profoundly rooted in the people's hearts, is an invincible symbol assuring us of an electoral triumph, with the hope that his forgiving government, acting without hatred or rancor, can make the people's wishes come true. This presidential ticket includes Dr Carlos Rodriguez, an honest and upright businessman, as first vice president, and Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, whose political stature is known throughout the country, as second vice president.

Thus, nightfall on 6 May will, for us and for the Panamanian people, be the dawning of democracy and the rebirth of law, liberty, and justice in our beloved Panama.

WORKERS PARTY ISSUES ELECTION COMMUNIQUE

PA190321 Panama City YA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 11

[Communique issued by the Revolutionary Workers Party, PRT, of Panama to "the people and workers of Panama"; date not given -- uppercase as published]

[Text] The recent proclamation of the "government's" presidential candidate by the Liberal Party, the Republican Party, the Labor Party, and the Democratic Revolutionary Party definitely clears up the political electoral picture and ominously darkens the future of our country's poor and working people. The oligarchic dictatorial alliance that is still being organized that allegedly opposes the government and that is led by Dr Arnulfo Arias is now being challenged by the alliance of economically powerful bourgeois groups that are formally supported by the ever-present Democratic Revolutionary Party and the General Staff of the National Defence Forces of the Republic of Panama.

The Barletta-Del Valle-Esquivel (Roderick) ticket cannot hide its clear oligarchic, antinational, and pro-imperialist character, not only because it represents the interests of the local bourgeoisie and the great transnational capitalists but also because it represents the final phase of the reorganization process that was begun by those with both new and old money when the canal treaties were signed in 1977.

Washington must indeed be celebrating this.

Both of the two oligarchic alliances that have been created guarantee that their transnational capitalist economic interests will continue to guide the Panamanian Government's actions. The two oligarchic alliances differ only in form. Dr Arias would follow the Reagan administration's backward style, while Dr Barletta would help to maintain its interests and those of the Panamanian bourgeoisie with an even greater executive efficiency than would the 80-year-old leader. Nevertheless, both groups and their respective candidates represent interests that are entirely opposed to those of the poor and working people in our country. Operating either under a self-sufficiency [yuca con miel] philosophy or under Mr Friedman's criminal economic theories, in the Chicago-school style, both tickets seek to guarantee the recovery of national and international capitalists from their present crisis through the progressive creation of poverty among the working classes in our nation and through attacks on the people's unions and politic[illegible] organizations. Therefore, both alliances represent only more HUNGER, UNEMPLOYMENT, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS, POLITICAL REPRESSION, AND THE SUBMISSION OF OUR COUNTRY TO U.S. IMPERIALIST PLANS.

It is important to point out that our poor and working people have not remained simple observers or idle bystanders during this scandalous process to reorganize both the old and new money sectors in our country. Our people have been building up and strengthening many levels of organization, with the intention of struggling for their true interests and socioeconomic needs. Our people have taken advantage of the present electoral situation and have begun to unite in their organization and struggle through the UNITED PEOPLES FRONT (FREPU).

The FREPU is made up of the most active and rational members of the organized workers' movements, many neighborhood and community organizations, organized Christian sectors, Indians, progressive professionals, students, and two political parties that seek to defend the interests of the exploited and oppressed classes: the INDEPENDENT PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS (PICO) and our PRT.

Therefore, the FREPU is the only political front made up of different popular organizations that are prepared to face the domestic oligarchy and its imperialist bosses, not only in the general elections in May and June but also in the difficult post-electoral future. The large number of unpopular actions that have been adopted in the last several years, which will surely proliferate after the elections (if either of the oligarchic alliances should win), must not find us, the most advanced and conscientious sectors of our people, without a common position from which to coordinate popular resistance to the hunger-producing and repressive measures that imperialism is promoting and that are being accepted and implemented by domina economic and political sectors in our country, which will surely become even more dominant after the elections.

It is neither possible nor admissible for parties, labor unions, and popular organizations that are known for defending the interests of the poor and exploited to join forces with the established bourgeois and oligarchic electoral alliances.

There is absolutely no scientific or political justification (except opportunism) that would permit a decision of this kind, simply because it is not just the legal existence of revolutionary parties or organizations that hangs in the balance under the present electoral situation. Also hanging in the balance is the ability of our people to jointly face, both during and after the elections, the imposition of the interests of an oligarchy and imperialism that are prepared to resolve their economic and political crises by eliminating the struggling organizations of the exploited popular classes and by promoting the complete impoverishment of our people.

Therefore, our PRT appeals with historic urgency to the PEOPLES PARTY, the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, the Tendency [Tendencia], and the other progressive sectors that have hopeless illusions about the reformist measures of the last decade and all other organizations that are committed to the people's true interests to join the FREPU. Only by joining forces and withdrawing our support for the false electoral options promoted by the domestic bourgeoisie and Yankee imperialism can we face the dark clouds that are gathering over the people's horizon.

Let us advance with the FREPU.

Let us forge an understanding among our people for a government composed of the poor and the workers.

Let us struggle for the government program of the United People.

PRT NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

"YOUR OWN PEOPLE"

BRIEFS

NEW OFFICIALS APPOINTED -- During a ceremony at the Presidential Palace today, the following new officials assumed office: Everardo Gonzalez, deputy health minister; (Abdiel Urena), deputy planning and economic policy minister; Alvaro Arosemena, deputy housing minister; Azael Purcait, deputy finance and treasury minister; Luis Carlos Noriega, foreign policy adviser to the executive branch; Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the National Banking Commission; Dario Arosemena, general customs director of the Finance and Treasury Ministry; and Fernando Tom, general director of the Price Control Office. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora National in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 84 PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE, JAMAICA'S SEAGA SIGN COOPERATION PACT

FL211950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 20 (CANA) -- Jamaica and Costa Rica have signed an accord which the government here says paved the way for the exploration of specific areas of economic and technical cooperation. A joint commission is to be established to implement the agreement and it is to have its first meeting within a month's time. The Jamaica prime minister, Edward Seaga, Sunday ended a five-day visit to Costa Rica where he stopped off following talks in Washington with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a badly needed stand-by credit agreement.

A statement here said that agreement signed in San Jose Saturday night between Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Guitierrez and Jamaica's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Neville Gallimore came out of talks between Prime Minister Seaga and President Luis Alberto Monge.

The Jamaica statement said the agreement set up what Monge called "the Central American/ Caribbean axis." What the Costa Rican president meant by that phrase has not been explained, but political analysts here speculate that it could be an indication that Kingston and San Jose see the agreement as a first step towards a cementing of relations between conservative regimes in Central America and the Caribbean.

Jamaica said that, under the agreement, the two countries would promote economic, technical, and commercial cooperation through increased bilateral trade and, where viable, the establishment of manufacturing, agricultural, and fishing ventures. The two countries also plan to exchange technical information and be involved in training in tourism, agriculture, and other areas. A list of products liable for preferential treatment in both countries and other issues for the implementation of the accord will be discussed at the first meeting of the joint commission, which will be held here.

Jamaica said that Costa Rica expressed a desire for close links between the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), a grouping of English-speaking Caribbean countries, and the Central American common market. The aim would be eventually achieving a common market for the whole of Latin America. Jamaica said that Prime Minister Seaga agreed the progress could be made in this year but advised President Monge to proceed cautiously. The statement did not indicate the reasoning behind Seaga's position.

RULING FAVORS POPULAR VANGUARD PARTY GROUP

PA212218 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The director of the Civil Registry's electoral office yesterday issued a ruling on the petition filed by representatives of the Popular Vanguard Party [PVP]. Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto Segura said PVP representatives filed the petition on behalf of the legitimate national assembly of the PVP. The ruling also dealt with the assembly that Eduardo Mora Valverde and others have attempted to register, Ferreto added.

The Civil Registry's decision favored the slate of executive committee members that was submitted for registration by the legitimate national assembly.

The slate includes Humberto Vargas Carbonell, president; Francisco Gamboa, treasurer; and Arnoldo Ferreto, secretary, the PVP legislator said. The fraudulent assembly that Eduardo Mora Valverde attempted to register was clearly and definitively rejected by the Civil Registry, Ferreto said. The Civil Registry detected illegal procedures in the registration attempt and thus ruled against it.

EL SALVADOR

PDC'S DUARTE STRESSES JUSTICE IN ELECTION SPEECH

PA172316 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 16 Feb 84

["Voice and Image of the Central Electoral Council" program: statement by guest speaker Jose Napoleon Duarte, presidential candidate for the Chrtistian Democratic Party, PDC, during a round table of presidential candidates held at the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies on 24 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Although some persons don't believe in this, I think that we are working within a social pact, because when the candidates of all contending political parties sit down to discuss the country's serious problems earnestly and calmly, an important national dialogue is being opened. I am convinced that our goal is not to stop the dialogue here, but to extend it to all sectors of our national life so that everyone can have the right to express himself freely, in freedom and security.

Gentlemen, if there has been institutionalized violence in the economic and social sectors as well as misery and hunger; if all sectors of the nation have not had the opportunity to organize or to express themselves -- thank God, things have started to change with this 1983 Constitution -- the door to unionism, which had been closed for so many years, is now open. The opportunity had been denied to professionals to form associations, which are an instrument for liberation. On the day that professionals organize themselves into associations, this country's powerful economic forces will no longer be able to utilize and to manipulate them.

Dear friends, this violence has also generated institutionalized political violence through deception and terror, so that no political parties could exist in this country, so that no one could speak of agrarian or bank reform or anything else, for that matter. No one could speak of social justice or freedom because he would be apt to be called communist. This label meant a death sentence.

No unions could be organized here because those who spoke of the defense of the workers' rights were labeled communists and were sentenced to death. Dear friends, we have a new institution here now, an institution that has gone beyond our country's borders. This institution is the use of violence against violence. This is where subversion grows as well as the death squads. Both structures are terrorist and oppose the basic concept of civilized peoples' respect for human dignity.

It is in this concept that I can see the problem of violence that we are experiencing, but I cannot see justice in the same concept, because justice is not simply judicial. Justice concerns all sectors of the nation's life. There must be justice in the economic sector. Peasants must have an opportunity to not drown in misery, to have their own lands so that they can make them produce.

My dear friends, there are many things to be said about legal mechanisms, but I will only mention two more. The first deals with insights and procedures. I believe that although we have good laws in our country, justice is increasingly being applied according to procedures and not according to the particulars of the case, as if it were more important to comply with the written requirements than to analyze and dig into the crime to determine responsibilities. These are the things we must analyze, these are the things that the experts, the lawyers and those who know about these things should review in order to correct them. Justice should not be applied to a poor man who stole a chicken while a rich man who killed someone is released. The law should be equal for everyone; procedures should be based on this principle.

We have been going through a process of economic deterioration for a long time. What's happening in our country is that Salvadorans have been making use of all our economic resources, all our savings, to maintain our current structures. We are not producing new things, and this is why our economy has become stagnant. In this respect, I think that we should face the problem both from the structural point of view and from the circumstantial point of view. Economically, we cannot deny that at this time there is a social cost that affects all the economic sectors, a social cost resulting from the current crisis, from the war that we are all confronting.

Regarding all these factors -- violence, justice, corruption, economic reactivation -- I think that there are three alternatives. The first would be to continue the current structures, letting things go, letting things happen, insisting that all the bad things began -- according to them -- 2 years ago, that nothing occurred before that, insisting that we should return to things as they were 2 years ago, as if history did not address the economic and political crisis, as if those 6,000, 8,000, or 10,000 guerrillas were not in the mountains with rifles in their hands, fomenting subversion in the country. The country must not go backward. We must move ahead; we must find new paths; we must consolidate our structures of justice. This is why I disagree with those who say that they do not believe in having an agreement. I do not believe in letting things go either. The second alternative, I think, is the one prompted by those who believe in making things worse and who believe that the solution is a dictatorship. These are the ones who believe that the problems can be solved with violence, death, and destruction. They think that they can have peace by destroying others. They believe in the peace of death and the grave. I do not believe in that.

I think that the solution depends, in first place, on realizing that our problems are structural and circumstantial and that our society is in crisis. We must solve this crisis with good will. We must realize that we have to correct mistakes. We must have the will to do so. We are willing to make the effort and to place our efforts at the service of our country. In this way the solution and the democratization process will have a meaning.

Dear friends, we have to promote democracy in our country. The government and the people, with thought and good will, can correct the institutions' mistakes and establish a sense of security in our country.

A few minutes ago I told you that peace cannot be obtained just by holding elections and applying the law. There cannot be any peace as long as there are guerrillas in the mountains. This situation was not created solely by outside forces, even if those forces exist. They are only one of the causes. We must understand that these men who are in the mountains with their rifles must have had a reason to go there. Some reasons may be valid, others not. The fact is that they are there.

We must open the way for a national dialogue, which I mentioned before. We should not be the only ones sitting at this table, nor just some sectors; all sectors should be represented.

When those men can feel that they are safe, that they are not going to be killed at dawn, that rifle butts are not going to pound on their doors before they are to be taken out and executed, then we will have the conditions for a national dialogue with all the sectors of the country. When those groups that have gone to the mountains are here and freely express their views before any Salvadoran, then they will be judged by the people's will.

We are also going to express our views and eliminate the desire to kill and instead take the path of democracy, of thought, of ideological debate and wake up the people's conscience. When this occurs, then we will be in a position to have peace.

D'AUBUISSON HITS CORRUPTION IN ELECTION SPEECH

PA171244 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 16 Feb 84

["Voice and Image of the Central Electoral Council" program: statement by guest speaker Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, during a round table of presidential candidates held at the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies on 24 January -- recorded]

[Excerpt] As a nationalist, I want to offer in this most important forum the interpretation of what the members of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] feel. Let us not delude ourselves regarding the situation that we are experiencing. The problem that is plaguing El Salvador is not that this country is a target of international communism. We are guinea pigs. The two great world powers have come here to confront each other. The United States, the defender of our freedom, has come here to carry out alien experiments without even asking us if we wanted to be part of those experiments. They have come here to play with trilateralism. They have come here to experiment with a number of other activities. They are supplying the weapons and the money for this confrontation, and unfortunately we Salvadorans are supplying the blood and the destruction of our people and of our fatherland. Based on this reality, we must respond to those two currents that are confronting each other here and that are playing and experimenting with us. And that response, gentlemen, will be given on 25 March.

On the topic of corruption, administrative corruption has already been mentioned. Corruption must be fought. It is an evil that has developed gradually. There have been countries that have fallen into total chaos or are at the brink of failure because of corruption that has become almost institutionalized. However, the worst kind of corruption, in our view as Nationalist Republicans, is the nationalizations and state confiscations. That is the worst germ of administrative corruption, because when there is nationalization, or state confiscation, corruption becomes routine.

Another kind of corruption that has become very widespread and very harmful for our country is to allow intervention in the internal affairs of our people, in our domestic affairs. This kind of corruption, this surrendering, gentlemen, is the most harmful of all.

Corruption at the national level is highly dangerous because this corruption, together with the misinformation campaign of the great international Marxist plague, could place El Salvador in a very critical situation. It is corruption to allow this war to go on. Corruption is not having the courage to admit that we are in a state of war. We have been at war for 4 years already. Corruption is to allow it by talking about things that are no longer comprehensible to us nationalists, such as negotiating, holding dialogues, or forming a different government.

It is corruption to allow this war for the financial benefit of both those who supply us with weapons and those who are supplying the other side; those who are giving us loans, donations, and a number of other things. They are making money, and that is also corruption.

As to justice, all the definitions that I have heard are very interesting. Justice has been linked to respect for human rights. There is only one thing that I have not heard. I have heard how many deaths this war has caused, but I have not heard that those dead include some 2,000 young men of our Armed Forces. Where is justice for those whose throats have been cut, as in the case of Colonel Baquerano in El Paraiso? Where was the clamor against the bombs that these terrorists placed in an unarmed civilian light plane that was carrying women and children? Where were the defenders of justice when the mother and daughters of a family in Aguilares were raped and the entire family killed? Only a young lady who was bathing in the river at that time was saved. Why did the guerrillas kill them? Because that lady was serving the troops that were on duty on Guazapa Hill. She would do their shopping in Aguilares, buy them cigarettes, candy, or take the newspapers to them.

Human rights and justice. This topic is also closely linked to violence. Who among us Salvadorans does not mourn a relative, or a comrade in arms, lost in this violence? I, for one, carry in my heart the memory of a great number of good Salvadorans, good servicemen, who have died violently, and not in combat.

It is also said that justice must be applied to stop the death squads. I agree. On many occasions I have said that those gentlemen's attitude in no way helps either the Armed Forces or our national politics.

However, some things are not talked about. We have been fired upon with machine guns. Two or three fellow party members here have been wounded. Our attackers were not FMLN members. At no time did the FMLN claim responsibility for that attack. This means that there are also other forces that use armed violence because it suits their political interests.

However, for us to also brandish the banner that Robert White invented and to talk about death squads, for us to also use that as a theme would be unworthy of us, because we would be falling into a trap. Today it turns out that all the [word indistinct] and that all the wrong that has taken place here has been done by the so-called death squads. Oh, but the wrongs done by the guerrillas? No, they cannot be charged with human rights. They are justified in having their weapons in hand.

The topic of justice has been distorted. Gentlemen, there used to be four pillars here that were always the pedestal to keep out those doctrines that gradually infiltrated themselves until those who espoused them ended up in the mountains attacking us. One of those pillars was the productive sector, the men who knew how to work and to give directions, from the man that tills the soil and the laborer up to the businessman. We are realists and I personally do not make distinctions between this kind and that when we speak about private enterprises. Everyone who produces and works honestly and freely is an entrepreneur. The other pillars were the church; justice, the law, and the judges; and our Armed Forces.

Let us speak of the justice that, being already undermined, has become a factor of the violence: the expropriations. Is it fair to expropriate violently? I think not, because if the government had felt secure and sure of popular support, it could have proceeded gradually in implementing its intention to better distribute the land.

However, when a government feels unstable and follows foreign instructions it behaves in this way, and that does not constitute justice or compliance with the law.

We are going to present these (?thoughts) to you as a program showing ARENA's position. When you give your vote, if you vote for that program, it will be our obligation to correct those errors.

For a government to fulfill a social function, it must have an income. The government's income comes from taxes. Who pays the taxes? Producers. That is why one of the principles that we most firmly believe in is that productivity generates resources for the social function.

Speaking of violence, gentlemen, the fundamental platform of our party is to attain peace, but we want to be very clear about this because we are not trying to deceive anyone. We believe that we will attain peace when El Salvador and our people obtain a victory. It is not true that we will continue negotiations to share with those gentlemen a power to which they have no right. Power emanates only from the vote, from you, from the people.

If you wish to join and if you like our platform, welcome to our party, and vote for the nationalists! As we always like to state in concluding our messages, I say: Above all the things about which we have spoken to you so much, we say and we will continue saying that El Salvador comes first, second and third. Thank you very much.

PAISA'S ESCOBAR SEES 'COMMUNIST INFILTRATION'

PA192345 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 18 Feb 84

["Voice and Image of the Central Electoral Council" program: statement by guest speaker Roberto Escobar Garcia, presidential candidate for the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA, during a round table of presidential candidates held at the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies on 24 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] I believe that the misinformation and de-institutionalization campaign directed at Salvadoran society, along with other factors from both within and without -- among which we cannot fail to mention our society's demographic situation, the educational level of the new generation, which has created a gap of sorts between our generations, and other problems resulting from economic issues -- have created a situation in El Salvador that people could mistakenly believe to be a simple modernization process, rather than a process of communist infiltration using an infrastructure based in Moscow, Havana, and Nicaragua.

You watched me on television in the previous campaign upholding the premise that the basic causes of El Salvador's current problems come from abroad, that they are part of the East-West confrontation, that they result from communist infiltration and not from the imperfections existing in all societies. You heard me outline this premise on television, and I reiterate it now. I am more certain of its validity every day, and the facts seem to corroborate my reasoning.

Therefore, when we initiated structural changes -- in good faith, I am sure -- by implementing a communitarian organization, a collective model in which on the one hand production sources are owned by the state and on the other hand the political power of the private sector is limited we made a mistake.

Although this premise will be open to further discussion, and I would actually like to discuss it on television, I maintain, without disregarding the social and political impact of the reforms at the time, that, from the economic viewpoint and the viewpoint of its use as a solution to the conflict at hand, we chose the wrong model.

We are currently facing a situation in which we cannot reverse the changes that were made. Every sensible Salvadoran must therefore understand that the changes are irreversible; we cannot move backward; the social machinery permits no retreat. However, every sensible Salvadoran must also realize that if the situation persists, with its lack of inter-institutional coordination and its lack of planning to attain our economic objectives, and if we fail -- which I hope will not happen, gentlemen -- that failure could be worse than a retreat.

The Salvadoran people feel insecure. We are sometimes amazed by the operations carried out by the subversive forces. I have said on television that the communists have never solved their problems through military means. Military actions are only used to apply pressure so as to create greater leeway for diplomatic, political or social initiatives, such as a general uprising.

In fact, the Marxists have learned from their mistakes. Notice that they do not bring their diplomatic or political differences to the OAS, where the Latin American spirit would reject the Marxist plans; they always air their problems at the United Nations, to take advantage of the USSR's powerful influence, as well as that of USSR satellites and other countries that have fallen under the ideological dominion of international Marxism.

In the face of this situation, we are desperate here in El Salvador. We are all worried about the military conflict. However, if we realize that military action has never been the path of solution -- this is the eternal doctrine developed after the victory of [name indistinct] over the French in 1945 -- we would be less worried and we would realize that the real danger lies in other areas.

I wish to make it very clear that we have two big social problems that we must attack: the problem of the unemployed, and that of the displaced, or refugees.

The lack of confidence and security that can be seen in the political, military, and social spheres is also reflected in our economic problems. This is one of the subjects that the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies has asked us to expand on.

When speaking of economic problems, the first and most important thing to bear in mind is that all problems in any economy arise from a lack of investment. If investment drops, a large number of problems develop. In this sense, because investment in El Salvador since 1982 has dropped by 65 percent in comparison to 1978, it is logical to assume that the Salvadorans' GNP has also been reduced.

We can also discuss specific problems experienced by industry. Many of you are industrialists and are aware of the problems and difficulties faced in obtaining foreign exchange -- you can't qualify for it on the official market and thus have to use the parallel, or black, market -- and finding credit becomes more difficult every day now that the banks have been nationalized. Many enterprises that had excellent credit ratings in the past can't get them today. The problem is not only the cost of money, but the difficulty in qualifying for credit in industries and businesses that need support to survive. Refinancing is insufficient and many businesses are on the brink of closing.

Things have also been complicated in the agricultural sector. Government measures have made agricultural production even more difficult; the actions of the subversives, especially in certain areas of the country, have also made it more difficult. We also must not forget that the international markets have an impact on agriculture. The prices of our basic export products are lower than ever.

I am not blind to social shortcomings, either. A social body is like a human body: the healthier it is, the stronger its resistance to illness. I cannot ignore all of the problems that now exist and that have existed in Salvadoran society. I just wish that someone would tell me where on this earth we can find a perfect society; where is the perfect country; where is a society that has no imperfections and problems? If we could find such a society, this paradise would be capitalist, and there would be no communism. I probably should not blame the Marxists and the communists for wanting to be No 1 in the world. There has always been a No 1 in this world. Central America had its No 1, and we were it. Thus, we can't blame them for acting like this. However, I believe that all of us who oppose their system should be the first to insist that things not be made easier for them. This is why PAISA, from its very inception on 12 October 1983, declared that it was committed to the fight against enslaving and repressive systems that restrict human rights, corrupt the souls of men, and subject them to the cruelest forms of servitude and slavery. PAISA was born in the commitment to this struggle for democracy.

In the few minutes that remain, I would like to express a couple of thoughts: First, I maintain that as the means of production are nationalized -- banks, lands, foreign trade, etc. -- the possibilities for corruption increase. I am going to repeat this thought. As the means of production are nationalized, the possibilities of corruption increase. Therefore, we have to adopt strict and efficient systems -- not laws -- systems to control corruption.

Mr President, companero candidates: All of this means that we live in a society that is in crisis and that can only be rescued with justice. But we must each work individually to ensure that each of us can live by the Constitution, and to see that the Constitution can become a document of faith and that, just as it guarantees individual and social rights that the state and all citizens must respect, we must respect what is included in it, which constitutes a guarantee for others.

With this, and knowing that I have used up my 45 minutes, I would like to confirm to this audience, to the candidates, and to the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies that I have unshakable faith in the diverse sectors of the Salvadoran people. PAISA has faith in the potential of the Salvadoran people, in their intelligence, and in their patriotism.

Gentlemen, these difficult trials that we have had to experience and that we must yet resolve will be the best evidence in humankind's history that the communists' efforts at expansion stopped here, and, that with the necessary understanding and without violence, we will have been able to raise the social, cultural and living standards of the Salvadoran people . Thank you for your attention. [applause]

REBELS ATTACK VILLA DOLORES, CABANAS DEPARTMENT

PA210430 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Leftist guerrillas last night attacked the National Guard and Civil Defense station in Villa Dolores, Cabanas Department, in an attack that lasted until early this morning. According to official reports, the telecommunications office there was damaged in the action.

Both civilian and military sources add that the leftists took goods from several small stores in Villa Dolores. It has been reported that they left many dead companeros outside of the town, though our military sources did not give the exact number of leftists who died during the 10-hour exchange of rifle fire.

The military report from Cabanas adds that the leftists used incendiary bombs to destroy two vehicles owned by Villa Dolores businessmen. The report also notes that there were no civilian casualties.

Meanwhile, 80 towns and more than a million people are without electricity today in Morazan, Usulutan, La Union, and San Miguel Departments. Production and trade has been reduced by 50 percent as a result. The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, CEL, has not yet reported where, in this turbulent part of the country, the high-voltage towers were destroyed. Their destruction, however, has interrupted the supply of electricity to the eastern sectors of the country.

PRTC LEADER IN MEXICO ON PARTY ANNIVERSARY

PA192254 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 3 Feb 84 p 15

[By Maria Eugenia Torres]

[Text] The Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRTC) has commemorated the seventh anniversary of its founding by recognizing the FMLN as the leader of the Salvadoran revolutionary process. Jaime Miranda, the PRTC representative in Mexico, assessed the activities of his organization, which is a part of the FMLN and which participates in the insurgents' struggle through the People's Liberation Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARLP). Jaime Miranda pointed out that one of the objectives of the Salvadoran PRTC is to consolidate and to expand its bases in the country; that is why it joined the revolutionary forces in 1980 -- to work to overthrow the Salvadoran regime and to get rid of U.S. intervention.

He said that from 1981 to 1983, a period of open war, the PRTC joined the FMLN's armed effort through the creation of the FARLP, which also contains the People's Liberation Army [El Ejercito de Liberacion Popular], the Revolutionary Militias [Las Milicias Revolucionarias], and the Guerrillas for the People's Liberation [Las Guerrillas de Liberacion Popular]. Last year, a special force called the Luis Diaz Mobile Detachment [Destacamento Movil Luis Diaz] was created within the revolutionary armed forces to develop a unit capable of attacking the Salvadoran regime's Army anywhere in the country.

All of this, Miranda explained, proves that the PRTC "is a legitimate part of the vanguard," by which he meant the FMLN. He added that the FMLN's alliance with the FDR is a guarantee for the struggle to develop a just society. Expressing thanks for the solidarity of various political groups with his organization and for government support, Miranda declared that the PRTC reaffirms its commitment to expand and to strengthen the struggle of the world's various nations that are fighting for peace, democracy, and social justice.

FARABUNDO MARTI SUPPORTS BANK WORKERS' STRIKE

PA172139 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] More than 400 workers of the Popular Credit Bank are today in their 8th day of a strike. A spokesman for the striking workers has said the strike is nationwide and includes Popular Credit Bank branches in Usulutan, San Miguel, La Union, and Santa Ana.

The just demand of more than 400 workers has gone unanswered for 8 days. The Monetary Commission has refused to give the workers the 20 percent wage increase they are demanding.

The workers of 18 Salvadoran bank agencies stopped working for 2 hours on 14 February in solidarity with their fellow workers. Hundreds of bank workers participated in the strike on 14 February in support of the Popular Credit Bank workers' demand. Other labor organizations have also expressed their support for the bank workers. The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation, FENASTRAS; the Union of Workers of the Urban Housing Institute; the Trade Union of Salvadoran Social Security Institute Workers; the National Trade Union of Transportation Industry Workers; the (City Hall Workers Union); and other labor organizations are supporting their fellow workers. We demand a general wage increase for all the Salvadoran workers.

GUATEMALA

11 GROUPS LAUNCH DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING BOARD

PA211642 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan Democratic Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Democratica Guatemalateca] was officially launched at a news conference today at 1500 in the Concord Room of the Central Hotel in the Guatemalan capital. The event was attended by members of 11 Committees for the Formation of Political Parties.

According to the document on the group's formation, the Guatemalan Deomcratic Coordinating Coordinating Board represents a union of all leftist and center-leftist parties and political ideologies for the sole purpose of fighting to establish democratic norms in this country in light of the upcoming constituent assembly elections on 1 July. The introduction to the document on the formation of the Coordinating Board states that Guatemala is experiencing a grave situation of violence, economic crisis, profound distrust of institutions (?and) Guatemalans, and uncertainty about the economic and political future. In view of this, the document adds, and in order for the proper conditions to be created, we believe in the immediate future and in being able to change, so as to move toward national peace and concord. [sentence as heard]

The Guatemalan Democratic Coordinating Board includes the following Committees for the Formation of Political Parties: Guatemalan Christian Democracy [DCG], the PNR [National Renovating Party], [acronym indistinct], (?PSC), AD [Democratic Alliance], and others.

According to a Coordinating Board spokesman, this nonelectoral union was organized solely to fight for democratic conditions in the current process. The Coordinating Board will ask the government to review the electoral law. It will also request guarantees for the lives of the Guatemalan people, especially political leaders. The group has also criticized the fact that [DCG leader] Vinicio Cerezo is being threatened with death by [word indistinct] groups.

Later, the Guatemalan Democratic Coordinating Board asked the authorities and security bodies to end the violence that currently prevails in this country, whatever the cost, in order to guarantee a democratic process and to achieve a climate favorable for the election of a constituent assembly, which is slated for 1 July.

The Coordinating Board added that Guatemala is experiencing a critical economic, social, and political situation, that measures must be adopted to bolster democracy throughout the nation, and that joint efforts must be made to implement these measures.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA SETS ELECTION DATE AT SANDINO RALLY

PA212221 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1559 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Speech by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua at a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino -- live]

[Excerpts] Today, 21 February, on the 50th anniversary of the death of Sandino and the 5th anniversary of the victory of the revolution, we salute the foreign delegations, the youth of the student production battalions, the heroic fighters in the Interior Ministry's Army, the militias, and the reserve battlions, who are defending the revolution at the front. We also salute the veteran Sandinist fighters and the mothers of our heroes and martyrs.

The United States will continue its aggressive policy in 1984. It will continue to allocate millions of dollars to fill our homeland with sorrow. Since March 1982, the U.S. Government's investment in murdering the Nicaraguan people and in destroying our efforts at reconstruction has amounted to $73 million; $73 million invested in murdering, wounding, and kidnapping over 1,500 Nicaraguans in that time, and in destroying farming cooperatives, farm machinery, fuel depots, schools, and health centers worth over $200 million. The United States will expand its military presence in the area in 1984. It will multiply its air and ground attacks and its military maneuvers, and it will install new military bases. It has already announced this.

This morning, on rendering homage to General Sandino, we are reasserting the nonaligned and pluralistic nature of this revolution, which is becoming more and more consolidated and which is developing further every day. This revolution is undergoing an entire process of institutionalization, evidence that the revolution itself is already an irreversible process, in a Nicaragua that is advancing in an embrace of solidarity with the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, and with the very people of the United States itself, who have demonstrated consistent fondness for and solidarity with us Nicaraguans. [applause]

As Father Cardenal, Father D'Escoto, Msgr Arias, or Msgr Mendez Arceo would say, Christianity and Marxism are both a part of Sandinist democracy. [applause] We do not want the democracy that the North American administration wishes to impose on us. We definitely do not want it, except for those who were born on Nicaragua's soil by mistake. [applause] Neither do we accept the lessons on democracy that the U.S. Government leaders want to provide us, because we don't want the sort of democracy that denied several million U.S. citizens the right to vote in 1960 because they were black; we don't want the kind of democracy that had schools, stores, buses, and bars for black people.

We don't want the sort of democracy in which barely 30 percent of the population participate in presidential elections. We don't want the democracy of the Ku Klux Klan. We don't want the democracy that wields economic and military power to threaten and to attack those who do not yield to imperialism's designs. We don't want a democracy that establishes external borders.

We learned about this democracy during the times of Walker, Diaz, and Moncada, and in Somoza's time. Let the U.S. Government leaders keep that sort of democracy to themselves; we don't want it either for our people or their relatives. [applause, shouts]

We have been building our own democracy here and from here we are contributing to the democratization of Latin America, and particularly to that of Central America. Since before the revolution's victory, our original plan -- which has never ceased to be the same original plan -- has included the decision to hold elections. We confirmed this decision in August 1980. In December 1983, we issued a decree ordering the State Council to work on the electoral plan and to submit proposals for final approval.

One of the State Council's initial steps was to propose amendments to Articles 9, 10, 18, and 28 of the Fundamental Statute of our Republic. These reforms have been accepted by the Government Junta. Article 28 says the following:

On the date on which the Government Junta calls general elections, regulated by the law on elections, which will be promulgated at an appropriate time, the following will be elected through direct and secret suffrage:

A. A president and a vice president of the republic, in a single national jurisdiction, for a 6-year period, to commence on the date set by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction for their installation in the call for elections.

B. A National Assembly, composed of 90 representatives and their respective alternates, elected by regional and subregional jurisdictions and special areas for a 6-year period, to commence on the date set by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction for its solemn installation in the call for elections.

As usual, the details will become known when the decree is published.

These amendments are hereby approved by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction today, 21 February 1984, here at this Plaza of the Revolution. [applause, shouts]

Every election requires a date [shouts of "Viva Sandino"] and here is Decree No 1400, in which the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction sets the date for the elections. It reads:

Call to elections:

On 4 November 1984, Nicaraguan citizens are called to go to the polls, which will be established, [applause, slogans chanted] in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law, in order to elect, through direct and secret balloting:

A. A president and a vice president of the republic for a term of 6 years, to commence 10 January 1985, the date on which they will be installed.

B. A national assembly composed of 90 representatives and their respective alternates for a 6-year term to begin 10 January 1985, the date on which the assembly will be installed.

Here is another decree, No 1401, which deals with the extension of the term for people involved in counterrevolutionary activities to receive amnesty under the decree that was released in December, because this decree expires today, 21 February. We are extending it until 4 May 1984.

It should be said that to this date, 806 people have received amnesty under this decree. Of these 806 people, 208 came from Honduras, 1 from Guatemala, 9 from Costa Rica, 1 from the United States, 422 from among the counterrevolutionary rebel groups, and 69 from among those who had been kidnapped and threatened so they would join counterrevolutionary activities [figures as heard].

At the State Council, we will present an amendment to Article 17 of the nationality law, which will establish that people have the right to vote at the age of 16. [applause, slogans shouted] We must note that [applause, slogans shouted] the constitution that was implemented by the liberal revolution in 1893 established, for the first time in Nicaraguan history, the right to vote at the age of 16. Of course, this will make it necessary to review the legal age, which is presently 21. We will see what specialists have to say about this, so that the legal age corresponds to our real situation.

As for these measures, we have noted today that new domestic and foreign campaigns will be unleashed to weaken them, but we know that these measures are supported by the Nicaraguan people and by the international community. We will proceed with them as an important part of the consolidation of the revolutionary process. This is a task, a battle to be won, in the war that has been imposed upon us by the foreign aggressor. We are ready to undertake it with a Sandinist spirit, and we are completely certain that we will fulfill these tasks.

We have seen our brothers, sons, fathers, and grandchildren marching toward the battlefield. Many of our brothers have died since the victory. How many tears have been shed, how many worries have been suffered, how much pain has been withstood by our mothers, the heroic mothers of Augusto Sandino, Rigoberto Lopez Perez, and Carlos Fonseca? To them, on this 50th anniversary of Sandino's murder, we pledge that we will not betray the blood that was shed by their sons! We will always march forward with a firm step! [applause]

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS MARK SANDINO ANNIVERSARY

Cuba's Almeida Addresses Council

PA220024 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2320 GMT 20 Feb 84

["Message on behalf of the Cuban Government and people" delivered by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers and member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, during a Nicaraguan State Council session in Managua to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...his figure is exalted and becomes more relevant. Sandino ranks among our America's greatest and most illustrious citizens. Like Bolivar and Marti, he is the seed of these times when the northern power, the arrogant invader of our lands, must bow before our yearnings for freedom and independence. This yearning shakes not only America but the so-called Third World.

Sandino was born in [word indistinct] 24 hours before Marti fell in Dos Rios, giving his life for the liberation of Cuba on 19 May 1895. Three decades later, Sandino started in Las Segovias his war against the very same invaders who thwarted Cuba's 30 years' war of independence.

Marti and Sandino, although of two distinct eras, are interwoven in our America's history. They both fought U.S. intervention, and if U.S. interventionist plans thwarted Cuba's independence in 1895 and murdered Sandino on 21 February 1934, we still had a 19 July and a 26 July, which (?united) Cubans and Nicaraguans in these historical events of our struggle for independence and total liberation.

Just like Cuba and Nicaragua, other Latin American peoples have been the victims of blackmail and aggression, economic exploitation, and the imposition of tyrannical regimes -- all this supposedly on behalf of freedom and democracy.

Nicaragua is one of the most eloquent examples of that U.S. policy. During the last century, the United States imposed treaties to seize the opportunity afforded by Nicaragua's geography to build an interoceanic canal through its territory, tried to use filibuster and the adventurer William Walker to annex all of Central America, and occupied Nicaragua with its fleet from 1911 to 1933.

Sandino (?led) an army to defend the national sovereignty against the Yankee intervention and defeated the Yankees in a long, heroic struggle. But on leaving Nicaragua, the Yankees left their monstrous brainchild, the National Guard, which murdered Sandino by order of the Yankee ambassador. This opened a long period in Nicaragua's history during which no new U.S. interventions were necessary, because this period marked the longest, cruelest, and darkest stage of Nicaragua's history, the Somozas' dynasty, which was finally liquidated on 19 July 1979 by the generation of Rigoberto Lopez Perez and Carlos Fonseca Amador, who fulfilled the Sandinist dream. These men bequeathed to the Nicaraguan people their combative, victorious vanguard -- the FSLN.

You. the Nicaraguans who fought in the forward ranks that today have accomplished tasks on all fronts of this revolution, are Sandino's legitimate (?sons), who avenged this crime in history and forever rescued Nicaragua's trampled sovereignty.

Since the Nicaraguan people started to rule their own destiny, rebuild the country, and create a new society, the U.S. empire has tried by every means to destroy the revolution. The counterrevolutionary hordes, led by torturers of the Somozist guard trained and armed 50 years ago by the U.S. Government, are trying to destroy the revolution's work and to drown the people in blood. This is the desire of imperialism.

The Honduran Government is an accomplice in these plans because it has lent its territory to Somozist and U.S. troops and has become an ally in the Reagan Government's interventionist plans.

On behalf of the Cuban people, our party, and our revolutionary government, we condemn these aggressive plans and bring a message of solidarity with the heroic Nicaraguan people, the heirs to Augusto Cesar Sandino's tradition of struggle. In the massive event to be held tomorrow at the Plaza of the Revolution, the FSLN will announce the schedule of elections to be held in Nicaragua. We want to express our support for this decision, which shows the soundness of this revolution and the popular support that it enjoys. Only imperialism and the dictatorship fear true, democratic elections in which the people can have the right to express themselves in their own voice. The Nicaraguan people have already given their full support to the FSLN. For this reason, we entertain no doubts that during the elections the people will show their support for those who offered their lives for the creation of the new society that the people are building.

The imperialists, who have promoted dictatorships and supervised and manipulated elections on our continent; who oppress Negroes and Indians in their own countries; who have advocated, armed, and supported dictatorships like Somoza's, [name indistinct], Maximilian's, Batista's, Duvalier's, and Pinochet's, to name only a few, claim to be champions of democracy in Latin America.

Pinochet's regime wants to drown Chilean democracy in blood -- yet it is a government that is friends with the United States. The current U.S. Government does not even think of demanding that Pinochet hold elections and restore democracy in Chile. In Uruguay, the much celebrated Switzerland of America, the United States imposed a ferocious dictatorship that has been undermining the rights of the people for the past 10 years. Yet, it tries to dictate to the Nicaraguan people when and what kind of elections to hold. But ever since the triumph of the revolution the FSLN's National Directorate, an organization that has displayed wisdom and maturity, has made a public commitment to hold elections. This promise is now becoming a reality.

Dear Nicaraguans, during the 4 and 1/2 years since the triumph of the revolution the FSLN has become a solid vanguard. The aggressive plans, threats, and blackmail of the imperialists have been unable to stop the revolution. The people have demonstrated resolve, and the Sandinist leaders have been united in their decisionmaking throughout these years.

Nicaragua is the only Central American country that has made serious proposals to prevent a war that would involve the whole region. But despite Sandinist patience and Sandinist proposals for negotiations and peaceful solutions to the conflict, U.S. policy has become more aggressive. Its most recent proposal is the Kissinger commission report requesting a budget of $800 million to support the military regimes of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala and to increase the U.S. military presence in the area.

However, the U.S. Government is not developing this aggressive machinery against Nicaragua alone; it is also aimed at the possibility of a revolutionary triumph in El Salvador. Encouraged by their shameful invasion of Grenada, the imperialists believe that their threats and interventions can stop the revolution in Central America.

Cuba maintains a policy of revolutionary principles and peace on our continent. It continues to support the efforts made by the Nicaraguan Government and the Contadora Group in their attempt to achieve a peace in Central America.

Nevertheless, Cuba warns the imperialists that blackmail and aggression do not lead to peace. The United States, as Companero Fidel said during his speech on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, must get used to the existence of an ever-growing number of democratic, popular, and revolutionary governments in Latin America. The United States must stop viewing the Latin American Continent as its backyard and a territory where it can develop military adventures at will, install and remove governments, meddle in the internal affairs of other countries, and try to impose its imperial will.

But if the policy of aggression is ultimately imposed -- and we hope that it will not happen -- the United States will find the people of Nicaragua and Cuba ready to defend their homeland.

Once again we quote Antonio M ceo, the hero of our war for independence: He who attempts to take over Cuba will only bite the just of its blood-stained ground.

The United States must know that the willingness of our peoples to defend themselves in the face of the invader is the fountainhead and guarantee of our victory. If the United States should make the mistake of bathing Central America in blood, it will come up against the progressive, democratic, and revolutionary peoples and governments of the world and a new Vietnam will begin.

Sandino yesterday! [people shout: "Sandino today"] Sandino today! [people shout: "Sandino always"] Sandino always! Long live the Sandinist revolution! Thank you. [applause]

CSSR's Adamec Praises Revolution

PA211958 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Ladislav Adamec, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, said at last night's solemn session of the State Council that the Czechsolovak people will never abandon the children of Sandino and Fonseca. The official of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia recognized the efforts of the Nicaraguan Government and people to support the Contadora Group. He emphasized that Sandino's philosophy lives on in education and health programs and in the people's right to participate in all of the country's endeavors in production and defense.

Vietnam Sends Message

PA212001 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, through their embassy in Nicaragua, have sent greetings to the Nicaraguan people to commemorate the validity of the principles of Augusto Cesar Sandino. In a letter to Junta Coordinator [Daniel Ortega Saavedra], the Vietnamese Embassy states that the heroic people of Vietnam have followed the development of Nicaragua's revolutionary process very closely. On this solemn anniversary, Vietnam reaffirms its active solidarity with and full support for the people and Government of Nicaragua.

SSTV SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AS STATE CONCERN

PA162224 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN] today passed a law decreeing that the Sandinist Television System is a state corporation. The decree is signed by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, and by junta members Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Dr Rafael Cordoba Rivas. Because we consider it of interest, and for the further information of the Nicaraguan people, we read the text of the decree:

The JGRN, as is its right, decrees the following law that creates the Sandinist Television System:

1. The Sandinist Television System, SSTV, is created as a state corporation, capable of purchasing and acquiring obligations.

2. As a state corporation, the SSTV will have exclusive responsibility for television broadcasts throughout the national territory, through television station broadcasts and through the technical systems that the SSTV itself establishes.

3. SSTV property resources will include technical (?services) installations, funds allotted by the state, third party donations and the properties that the SSTV acquires directly.

4. The direction of SSTV affairs will be assigned to a council of directors presided over by a JGRN delegate and also by the president of the National Council for Higher Education, CNES, the Education Ministry, the Culture Ministry, the minister directing TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], a representative from the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers, ANDEN, and a representative from the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists, UPN. The council of directors will name the general director of SSTV and define his duties. The general director will participate in the council's meeting.

5. The duties of the council of directors are:

A. To approve broadcast and program policies.

B. To approve expansion and changes in the technical systems.

C. To approve all matters related to budget, investments, and financing.

Other duties of the council of directors are:

D. To name the general director and define his duties.

E. To draft internal regulations.

6. This decree will go into effect from the moment of its publication by any form of collective communication and will be published later in the daily OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The city of Managua, 10 February 1984. Fifty years later, Sandino lives.

[Signed] Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction

SUPREME COURT HEAD ADMITS SOME 'INJUSTICES'

PA190440 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11-12 Feb 84 pp 1, 10

[By Juan Velasquez]

[Excerpts] During a lecture on the subject of "Justice Under the Revolution" delivered by Supreme Court President Roberto Arguello Hurtado to the members of the American-Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Intercontinental at noon on Friday, the high-ranking magistrate admitted that "there have been injustices" in some cases.

"Our fundamental statutes have been flexible, permitting the need of the revolution or the revolutionary process to be adapted to reality, and it is not true, as claimed by counterrevolutionary propaganda or the enemies of the revolution, that the government program is an immutable or fixed statue," Arguello Hurtado emphatically told businessmen and lawyers in the presence of reporters from the various media.

RAMIREZ ON ELECTIONS, ECONOMY, MISKITO INDIANS

PM161547 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Feb 84 p 6

[Interview with Government Junta member Sergio Ramirez by Jean-Claude Buhrer in Managua -- date not given]

[Text] Managua -- Although the campaign officially started 1 February, several doubts still hang over the Nicaraguan elections scheduled for 1985. In principle the date and methods of organizing the election are due to be announced 21 February on the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino, who was murdered on the orders of the Somoza family. However, the opposition has already announced that it will boycott those elections if it does not obtain sufficient guarantees for a real national dialogue open to all the political forces. Adding to the confusion, the recent air attacks have cast new uncertainties on the preparations for the election.

In the interview that he granted us, Sergio Ramirez, one of the three members of the Government Junta, explained the difficulties of the campaign. "Despite our lack of experience in this sphere," he said, "we hope to draft a good law, making it possible to hold fair elections, and reflecting our desire for pluralism. But these elections are not the most important thing in Nicaragua, unlike Costa Rica or Ecuador. For the time being the essential thing is still our conflict with the United States. We will not end that with elections, especially because Washington is thinking only of a military solution. We do not want to give foreign countries the impression that the election can solve everything. Indeed, the United States will never accept the legitimization of the Sandinist government by elections."

Question: What do these elections mean for the revolution?

Answer: First we want to keep a promise to ourselves, to the people, and to international opinion. We think that it is necessary for various political forces to be able to elect deputies. They will form a constituent assembly which will establish a new political system. They will not be traditional elections. We want the people to give us a vote of confidence because we are in the middle of an historic process and we want to carry it through.

Question: What guarantees do you give the opposition?

Answer: All the guarantees that the Western countries give. During the campaign the various parties will have the same "space" on radio, television, and in the press. However, we will not allow this campaign to assume a commercial character. The deputies must not sell themselves like detergents. It will be impossible to buy votes by advertising, as is usually the case in Latin America. Censorship will probably be lifted. For our part we will tell the people the truth, we will talk to them about the challenges that we must take up, and the sacrifices that await us. We will say that we will continue the agrarian reform, that we will build schools and health centers, but we do not intend to promise shoes for all overnight.

Question: Are you prepared for a dialogue with your opponents to establish the rules of the game, or do you intend to fix them unilaterally? Will some political leaders like Arturo Cruz (Footnote 1) (Former junta member and former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, Arturo Cruz has been living in exile in Costa Rica since 1982) be allowed to return to run for president?

Answer: Arturo Cruz can return whenever he wants to. But we cannot have a dialogue with Adolfo Calero (Footnote 2) (Adolfo Calero is one of the main leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force -- an anti-Sandinist guerrilla organization based in Honduras) who is a CIA agent, or with Pastora (Footnote 3) (Eden Pastora leads the anti-Sandinist guerrillas of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, near the border with Costa Rica), who is virtually a CIA agent. That would damage our image with the people.

A Difficult Economic Situation

Question: Will the Sandinist Front be turned into a traditional party?

Answer: It will be turned into a traditional party before the elections, if only to approve its program and to chose its candidates.

Question: Are you confident of winning these elections?

Answer: Our defeat is very unlikely. If we lost, that would mean that Nicaragua no longer has confidence in the Sandinist Front. That would spell the failure of the revolutionary plan. But we are at war, and this war will influence the elections. No government at war has ever lost elections.

Question: If the opposition decides to boycott the elections, what will you do?

Answer: It is highly likely that the opposition will decide to boycott them. That does not depend on it alone but also on the United States. Since 1912, the United States has run elections in Nicaragua. The candidates had to go to receive Washington's blessing before being elected. Today the Americans want to impose on us closely controlled elections, as in 1927 when the "Marines" counted the ballots. Nonetheless some parties will take part in the election. Not all our opponents are traitors to the homeland. It is with them that we will compete. In any case there will be elections, unless there are unforeseeable circumstances -- for instance, if Managua was bombed.

Question: What is the economic situation?

Answer: Difficult. We are changing our economic model, and that always has a price. In addition, that world crisis is affecting us severely as exporters of raw materials. In 1983 we lost $180 million because of the deterioration in the terms of exchange. We also have serious difficulties in gaining access to the capital market. Our industry is closely dependent on imports and hence on external financing.

In addition to that there is the foreign military and political aggression and the damage caused by the war and the terrorist actions. The multinational banks are limiting our credit; that is also part of the war. In addition, we have serious supply problems because of a defective distribution system. The Latin American countries with traditional economies produce for some classes only, whereas we are thinking of the whole population. Of course, there are shortages. Supply is a problem of the revolution. It is also a consequence of it.

Question: There has been a great deal of talk in foreign countries of the Miskito problem. What exactly is the position?

Answer: The amnesty has already produced results. A large number of Miskito Indians are returning, but the amnesty will not be enough.

We are paying for the many mistakes. There are not many Miskito Indians (Footnote 4) (The number of Miskito Indians in Nicaragua is estimated to be around 150,000). Their isolation and backwardness have been traditional. We must first change their consciousness, teach them the new methods without offending them, and respect differences. We think that the Miskito Indians are Nicaraguans like everybody else, and we cannot accept their living outside the revolution. It is enought to find a balance. The displaced Miskito Indians are living better and are happier: They prefer to remain in their new camps.

Question: What about the bombing of their villages, which you are accused of carrying out?

Answer: There were problems but no bombings. That is all part of the campaign of lies, of the ideological war. In December 1981, when we planned the transfer of the villages, we expected reactions but we had no choice. The CIA was concentrating its efforts on the Rio Coco (Footnote 5) (The river that marks the border with Honduras on the Atlantic side, in a region inhabited mainly by Indians). Today the war front on the Atlantic coast is not as important as the Pacific front: Thus militarily speaking we have won.

Question: Some people claim that the human rights situation in Nicaragua deteriorated last year....

Answer: That is not true. Some people were killed after the revolution, but nobody was killed or disappeared in 1983 as the term is understood in El Salvador and Guatemala. Of course there have been people killed in the war, but no politicians have died. Nobody is being tortured either. What may happen is that a prisoner may be kept in detention longer than his sentence stipulates, but nothing more than that....

OBANDO Y BRAVO ON POLITICAL EVENTS, ELECTIONS

PA210440 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo has admitted, in a comment to the Emisoras CARACOL Network of Colombia, that the Nicaraguan Church has had its differences with the Sandinist government, but he added that they have been reduced with the appointment of Juigalpa Bishop Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega as the president of the Episcopal Conference.

Obando y Bravo indicated that the Catholic hierarchy, though on the sidelines, is observing the political events that will culminate in the 1985 elections, in which a president, a vice president and a constituent assembly are to be chosen. He also noted that some politicians are disrupting the debate on these elections.

Msgr Obando y Bravo added that the Nicarguan Church has always been open to dialogue and believes that problems should be resolved as soon as possible through dialogue and civilized solutions.

When the Managua archbishop was asked his opinion of the Nicaraguan Government's political opening, he replied: We are letting the politicians talk about this, because this is obviously a political topic. He also stressed that peace cannot be achieved by only one man, and that everyone must help to build the peace that all Nicaraguans so desire.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA DISCUSSES DEFENSE AT CEREMONY

Claims 30 Contras Killed

PA200225 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguans must not fall into the trap of abandoning their social development programs because of the imperialist attacks being launched from Honduras and Costa Rica by former Somozist guardsmen. Nicarguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, commander of the Revolution, said this during the dedication of the Benjamin Zeledon Children's Recreation Camp in Masaya, 30 km east of Managua.

Commander Ortega also announced that 30 counterrevolutionaries had been killed recently by our Sandinist militia and Sandinist People's Army. The Yankees won't let us progress in our revolution. They plot to render our friends our enemies, but they are crashing up against the Sandinist morale and determination to undertake a revolution as the people of Nicarguan want it, Commander Humberto Ortega stressed.

Reports Recent Zelaya Clashes

PA200414 Paris AFP in Spanish 2050 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Managua, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Nicarguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega has announced that the Nicarguan Army prevented anti-Sandinist groups from occupying Siuna, in the northern Department of Zelaya, where intense fighting has taken place in the last few days. He said this during the dedication of a children's recreational camp in Masaya, 30 km south of Managua, which was also attended by Government Junta members Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez. Ortega said that the Sandinist Army has dealt hard blows to the counterrevolutionary groups in an operation in Zelaya that began on 12 February.

A previous Defense Ministry report mentioned that 30 rebels had been killed and an undetermined number wounded in armed clashes in Icurrin, also in this region, without giving any further details. Ortega said that the anti-Sandinists are being defeated in Zelaya, although they are "receiving supplies by air, via helicopters" that allegedly come from Honduras.

Ortega also noted that the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FDN) are regrouping themselves in Jalapa, in the northern Department of Nueva Segovia, from where they could launch a new offensive; he did not reject the idea that they may try to mount a new "Sierra Plan," similar to the one that they mounted a few weeks ago, in an effort to control Nicarguan territory.

SANDINIST SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY DEFECT TO REBELS

PA181507 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p 9

[Fxcerpt] A spokesman of the rebel Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, has reported that 19 Sandinist Army soldiers have joined the FDN. The defectors indicated that government troops have been refusing to fight in the Bocay, Bocaycito, and Kilambe Hill sectors in Jinotega Department in the northern part of the country. On 6 February the commander of Battalion 23-24 refused to deploy his troops against a guerrilla column of the FDN's "Rafael Herrera" regional command operating in the area.

ARDE REPORTS CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES

Issues War Bulletin

PA171711 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish to Nicaragua 0100 GMT 17 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 173 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 16 February]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, reports to the Nicaraguan people and free peoples of the world:

1. At 0500 on 7 February 1984, the brave Gaspar Garcia Laviana column of the Felix Pedro Martinez unit, headed by Companero Potente, continued its series of well-aimed blows on the enemy in (Cano Chiquito), 5 km north of Atlanta, in the Punta Gorda region. The column ambushed a patrol of the occupation army and inflicted nine dead and four wounded in a 5-minute clash. In addition, the column recovered 2 knapsacks, 7 magazines, 200 rounds of ammunition, and other military supplies.

2. On 12 February, patriots of the Alvaro Lopez Castillo column from the Barba 4 unit headed by expert marksman Zacaton ambushed an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] patrol in the San Jose area of San Miguelito jurisdiction in Rio San Juan Department. The patrol suffered 12 casualties in the 10-minute clash. The rest of the patrol fled.

3. At 0920 on 14 February, the Ezequiel column of the Rafael Angel Rosa Pena unit headed by Companero Alban ambushed a column of the interventionist army between (El Miedo) and Buenos Aires, Cardenas, in Rivas Department. The enemy suffered five dead and several wounded during the action, which lasted 5 minutes.

ARDE's General Command acknowledges the effective military actions of its combatants who, clad in the purest patriotism and with courage that sometimes becomes audacity, as well as a systematic aggressiveness against the invader, are gradually wearing down and weakening the morale of those who defend the interests of Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Without totalitarianism or return to the past!

Claims 31 Soldiers Killed

PA210140 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2356 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] San Jose, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The military command of the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) today said that it had inflicted 31 dead and a number of wounded on the Nicaraguan Army in 5 skirmishes in the last several days. According to spokesmen for the guerrilla organization, 24 soldiers were killed in several ambushes in Zelaya Department. The other casualties were inflicted on the Sandinist Army in fighting in Punta Gorda and San Isidro, 80 km from the Costa Rican border, the sources said. ARDE reported that its columns "continue to devastate the enemy."

CTC PROCLAIMS CASTRO 'HERO OF THE REPUBLIC'

FL211646 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] has unanimously approved a motion to proclaim Commander in Chief Fidel Castro "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and to present him with this honorary title on the last day of the congress, 24 February. The proclamation of Fidel as hero of the Republic of Cuba took place at the end of the afternoon session of the great event of the Cuban proletariat following a motion made by delegate Adonis Cueto.

PAPER PRAISES CASTRO'S SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

PA211911 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Panamanian daily MATUTINO today praises the support offered to the Contadora Group by Cuban President Fidel Castro and reiterates the statements of the top Cuban leader during his visit to Madrid to meet with the head of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzalez. The paper's commentary notes that the pacifying mission of the Contadora Group has earned the admiration of all nations desiring an end to hostilities in Central America.

ALMEIDA BOSQUE WARNS U.S. ON AGGRESSIVE POLICY

FL211736 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Speaking in Managua, Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Politburo of Cuba's Communist Party, has warned the U.S. Government that a policy of blackmail and aggression is not the way to seek peace in Central America. Almeida gave a speech last night at a solemn program held in the Nicaraguan capital in homage to General Augusto Cesar Sandino.

Almeida Bosque also referred to Fidel Castro's statement that the United States must become used to the idea of admitting a steadily increasing number of democratic, popular, revolutionary governments in Latin America. The United States must stop viewing the Latin American continent as its backyard, as a territory in which it can carry out military adventures at will, establishing and overthrowing governments, interfering in the internal affairs of other nations, and trying to impose its own imperial will, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque stressed.

COSTA RICA, JAMAICA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

PA200300 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Jamaica and Costa Rica signed an agreement on economic, trade, technical, and cultural cooperation at the conclusion of Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga's visit to that Central American country.

Costa Rica will benefit from Jamaica's experience in tourism, while Jamaica will receive advice from Costa Rica on the cultivation of bananas, palmettos, and macadamia nuts. They also agreed to increase bilateral trade with products that have yet to be determined, according to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry.

SALVADORAN ELECTIONS CALLED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PA171352 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The University of El Salvador, where the military has intervened since 1980, has charged that the elections to be held in El Salvador on 25 March will constitute a new electoral farce, through which an attempt will be made to legalize at any cost a government that is nothing more than a continuation of the long line of antipopular regimes that has been incapable of meeting the people's aspirations.

The university's Higher Council asserted that the electoral process has been so grossly manipulated that it is unconstitutional, and that this manipulation is not an isolated event but part of the much more complex process of political domination that is being carried out behind the people's backs.

According to other reports, FMLN forces ambushed an Army patrol near Lolotiquillo, in Morazan Department. The guerrilla action resulted in three Army casualities.

In San Salvador, the employees of the Banco de Credito Popular are in their 5th day of a strike to demand salary raises. The strike is being supported by three bank employees' unions and the National Association of Public and Municipal Employees [Asociacion Nacional de Empleados Publicos y Municipales].

SALVADORAN ARMY ADMITS 2 HELICOPTERS DOWNED

PA211818 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Salvadoran regime has admitted that two of its helicopters were brought down Sunday by rebel forces in San Miguel Department, where the Army is conducting an unsuccessful operation against the guerrillas.

Colonel Ramon Morales Ruiz reported that the two U.S.-manufactured helicopters were hit by the rebels' antiaircraft fire as they were trying to land reinforcements to cut off the advance of an FMLN column in Nuevo Eden de San Juan. The destruction of the helicopters caused the death of 28 soldiers.

Meanwhile, the rebels' Radio Farabundo Marti revealed that the Army had suffered over 50 casualties in clashes last Friday and Saturday at various points in the country.

FMLN Cited on Incident

PA220046 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The FMLN has reported that its guerrillas shot down two of the Salvadoran regime's helicopters somewhere between San Gerardo and San Luis de la Reina, in San Miguel Department. With its report, the FMLN effectively put the lie to the version of the incident that was released by the dictatorship, which said that the two helicopters collided in midair. The FMLN termed the official version ridiculous and reported that 30 soldiers, including all 6 crew members, died when the 2 helicopters were shot down.

The helicopters, both of which were the HUEY H-1 model, were transporting reinforcements to assist the military units stationed in San Miguel, which are involved in a counterinsurgency operation.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, Salvadoran revolutionary leader Ruben Zamora said that the regime will have to accept the negotiations that have been proposed by the FMLN-FDR, inasmuch as the revolutionaries control vast sectors of the nation's territory and have established an effective government there.

In a statement for the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, Zamora, a member of the FMLN-FDR Political Commission, said that the two organizations have proposed that a transitional government be established to recover the nation's independence, to see that human rights are respected, and to abolish the institutions that pursue repression and torture.

PRIEST SCORES ARMY CRIMES IN EL SALVADOR

PA201654 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Salvadoran repressive corps murdered 21 persons while 23 others have been reported missing in the past week, according to priest Jesus Delgado in the Sunday homily read in the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador. He referred to the case of four U.S. nuns murdered in El Salvador by national guard units and demanded that the guilty be punished. It is disgraceful that such a crime should have been committed by men in uniform, because this seriously harms the image of the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, other dispatches from San Salvador reported that 24 soldiers and 4 crewmen aboard 2 Army helicopters were killed Sunday when the two aircraft collided in midair. The helicopters were taking part in a counterinsurgency operation conducted by the Army in the eastern region of El Salvador.

UPSURGE OF REPRESSION REPORTED IN GUATEMALA

Attorneys Request Investigation

PA180439 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan Bar Association has asked General Oscar Mejia Victores' regime to investigate illegal arrests by the police and to publish a list of detainees. The document released by the attorneys reported the kidnapping and disappearance of more than 100 persons.

On 14 February the police admitted having arrested more than 100 persons since March 1983. Before the announcement, all these persons were listed as missing. They are currently being held at the Technical Investigations Department.

In view of the upsurge of repression in Guatemala, various sectors have called for the resignation of Interior Minister Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval, who has admitted that the regime's security forces have committed abuses and illegal actions.

A clash between guerrilla forces and Army troops was reported in Guatemala's San Marcos Department. Meanwhile, a patrol car was attacked by the police [as heard] in Guatemala City. One policeman was seriously injured in the action.

ENFOPRENSA on Torture, Kidnappings

PA190411 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan news agency ENFOPRENSA has charged that prisoners in that Central American country are being tortured.

ENFOPRENSA reported that two fathers sent an open letter to Guatemalan Education Minister Gustavo Lopez Sandoval in which they said that their sons were tortured by repressive agents of the regime. They said that members of the Technical Investigations Department apply goads to their sons' genitals, tear out their fingernails, and place them in tanks of water where they receive electric shocks. The fathers added that this torture is being carried out on Las Americas Avenue and in the Las Margaritas area, in zones 14 and 16 of Guatemala City.

The Guatemalan "Here's the World" television news broadcast reported, meanwhile, that men and women imprisoned in the eastern Department of Zacapa are subjected to insults, and said that the kidnapping of three people was recently announced, bringing the number of missing persons in Guatemala to literally dozens in recent weeks.

End to Worker Repression Demanded

PA220343 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan National Committee of Labor Unity has demanded an end to the repression of workers that in the past 15 days has resulted in two union members killed and four others kidnapped.

The National Committee of Labor Unity has reported that (Samuel Villatoro), a member of that organization and of the Central Committee of the National Confederation of Guatemalan Workers, was one of the persons kidnapped. The National Committee of Labor Unity also reported that in the last 2 weeks the bodies of Alfonso Alvarado and of a glass factory worker were found. The bodies showed bullet wounds and signs of torture.

GUATEMALAN REBEL FORCES REPORT SABOTAGE ACTIONS

FAR Stages Ambush

PA171416 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The rebel armed forces, FAR, of Guatemala have staged two ambushes against Guatemalan Army troops and carried out a sabotage operation in El Peten Department, according to a FAR report.

[Words indistinct] on 9 February a guerrilla group fired at a military convoy of three trucks filled with soldiers after the first vehicle was stopped by a mine explosion. The action took place on the road between the towns of Flores and Poptun.

Five hours later, on the same road, insurgent forces harassed two trucks and a bus carrying troops, inflicting two casualties.

The FAR report (?adds) that on 10 February the guerrillas destroyed a fuel truck owned by the U.S. company Chevron.

ORPA Destroys Army Truck

PA201752 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, of Guatemala, inflicted 30 casualties on the Guatemalan Army when a patrol destroyed an Army truck carrying troops on the road from Coatepeque to La Reforma. An ORPA communique revealed that the incident took place on 30 January and added that in a clash 5 days before, rebel commandos had killed an unspecified number of Guatemalan Army Forces.

HONDURAN MANEUVERS SEEN AS OCCUPATION STRATEGY

PA172329 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The joint military maneuvers carried out by the United States in Honduras, which are unprecedented in Latin America in terms of the number of soldiers, resources, and duration involved, are today the pretext for the U.S. military occupation of Honduras.

Washington and Tegucigalpa announced simultaneously that some 1,700 U.S. soldiers will be stationed in Honduras for 5 years, as engineering and security troops to safeguard the war material that the Pentagon has deployed there.

The U.S. Government plan to establish a permanent military base in Honduras has been mentioned repeatedly. To that effect, 600 U.S. artillery troops have been stationed at a place near Puerto Cabezas, along the Honduran Atlantic Coast, for the past several months.

The so-called Regional Military Training and Security Center, run by 120 Green Berets, operates there. Some 1,200 Salvadoran Army soldiers have graduated from that center. An equal number of soldiers are currently taking intensive counterinsurgency courses there. The Palmerola Air Base, which was command headquarters during the recently completed "Big Pine II" joint maneuvers, has been turned into another gigantic U.S. military installation. Even U.S. political circles have described these installations as excessive, if they are intended solely for the military exercises.

In addition, the United States has built two modern radar stations in Honduras; expanded the air and naval bases at San Lorenzo and El Tigre Island in the Guld of Fonseca, where Honduras shares jurisdiction with El Salvador and Nicaragua; and carried out similar works at El Aguacate Air Base, only 100 km from the Nicaraguan border.

The main operation of the "Big Pine II" maneuvers was the landing of troops on the Caribbean coast of Honduras, which had all the characteristics of a rehearsal for an invasion. The final part of the military exercises consisted of military operations in a hypothetical conventional war against a neighboring country. The operation ended with the simulated destruction of a guerrilla movement.

New U.S. military exercises with Honduran troops, called "Grenadier I," will start in May. Washington is also expecting troops from the Guatemalan regime to take part in these exercises. According to the plan, soldiers assigned to the "Grenadier I" maneuvers will later join the new edition of the "Big Pine" exercises that will start in mid-year, with obejctives similar to the exercises that have just ended.

Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Gustavo Alvarez, Washington's strongman in Honduras, has confirmed that U.S. troops will stay in his country for a long time. Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova said plainly that his country needs more military aid. It seems that he is therefore willing to approve new joint military maneuvers with U.S. troops. The statements of John Negroponte, U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa, are equally cynical. He said that the U.S. military presence in Honduras is in response to an invitation from President Suazo Cordova.

These events have allowed the United States to carry out a de facto military occupation of Honduras. However, the greatest danger lies in the fact that Washington is determined to continue the military solution advocated by President Ronald Reagan for Central American problems.

Commenting on Reagan's plans, Adolfo Majano, former military junta member said recently: A U.S. intervention in Central America would have no future. He added: No matter what country it begins in, it will only result in the emergence of a resistance movement that will extend throughout the region and will be joined by all sectors of the population.

U.S. DESTROYER ON 'GOOD-WILL' VISIT TO HONDURAS

PA181715 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] One of the U.S. Navy's most modern destroyers arrived yesterday at Tela Bay, on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, for a so-called goodwill visit. The destroyer is part of a U.S. fleet of 50 ships that patrols various seas.

Several U.S. warships, including the aircraft carriers "Nassau" and "Guadalcanal," and the tank carrier ("La Mugre"), participated in the recent "Big Pine II" maneuvers in Honduras. These naval forces played a key role in the mock landing carried out in November 1983 on a beach near Puerto Castilla. This operation was viewed by observers as a preparatory exercise for an invasion of Nicaragua.

U.S. Military Supplies Arrive

PA200200 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The United States has unloaded a large number of weapons and other military equipment in Puerto Cortes, some 300 km north of Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital.

The Honduran daily EL TIEMPO reported that the weapons shipment was transferred to several trucks and taken to an unknown destination. EL TIEMPO noted that the large number of U.S. weapons, the second such shipment arriving in Puerto Cortes this month, was impressive.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA MEETS WITH CHERNENKO

PA181552 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Soviet Union and Nicaragua firmly condemned U.S. intentions to exacerbate tension in Central America and stressed the urgency to reach a political solution to this conflict, which would be based on respect for the people's right to determine their own destinies. CPSU General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko and Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, expressed this during a meeting held in Moscow, during which Chernenko also thanked the Nicaraguan people and Government for their condolences on Yuriy Andropov's death, and reiterated the Soviet Union's determined support for the just cause of the Nicaraguan people who defend their homeland's freedom and independence.

ORTEGA SAYS NICARAGUA WANTS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

PA180056 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The coordinator of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega, reiterated his country's disposition to negotiate peace with the United States and at the same time held that government responsible for the current tensions in Central America.

In exclusive statements to Colombia's CARACOL Network, Ortega insisted on the elimination of U.S. military bases in those countries bordering Nicaragua and urged the suspension of further joint war maneuvers between the United States and Honduras.

The Sandinist leader charged that the United States is trying to use the Central American Defense Council, CONDECA, for an armed intervention in Nicaragua, which would be illegal.

Finally, Ortega declared that Nicaraguans will firmly defend their dignity and their revolution.

Raps 'Inflexible' U.S. Policy

PA220311 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] In a statement for the Spanish weekly TIEMPO, Sandinist Commander Daniel Ortega said that the United States does not accept changes in Latin America and thus maintains an inflexible policy toward the region.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said that the Sandinist government will not react violently to the situation on the Nicaraguan border, but will take the necessary military measures to defend the revolution. Ortega said that the attacks on Nicaragua are becoming more frequent and that they can lead to a direct conflict with Honduras, which would in reality be with the United States.

In our opinion, the best thing would be to demilitarize the whole region by removing all foreign presence, a plan that would include Nicaragua.

Referring to the elections in Nicaragua, Ortega said that this time it will not be like those that the United States used to sponsor, as the people will be voting for programs and not for names.

NICARAGUA SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO HONDURAS

PA171335 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has sent a protest note to Honduran Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica charging that seven armed attacks were staged from Honduran territory against the Sandinist revolution from 7 to 12 February.

According to other reports, the Nicaraguan Government has invited the three Democratic candidates for the U.S. presidency and other political personalities from 30 nations to attend the ceremony that will be held in Managua to make the formal call to elections in 1985. Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission, said that North American government officials have also been invited. He said that no responses to the invitations have been received, but that there are indications that most of the U.S. recipients are considering their invitations with interest.

NICARAGUAN STATE COUNCIL APPROVES AMENDMENTS

PA180446 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan State Council has approved the amendments to the Constitution that will permit this Central American country to hold elections next year for president, vice president, and a national assembly composed of 90 members. The amendments were approved after 2 days of intensive debates, in which opposition parties were demanding just elections for a constituent assembly.

According to the amendments, the president, the vice president, and the national assembly will be elected for a 6-year term, and the president will have the same powers as the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. The national assembly will spend the first 2 years drafting and approving a new constitution and will then continue with its legislative duties until the end of its term.

Article 9 was amended to establish that the branches of the Nicaraguan Government are the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, the State Council, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Supreme Electoral Council.

State Council President Carlos Nunez said that the State Council will spend approximately $60 million in the elections, and that each political party participating in the elections will receive $600,000 under equal conditions.

NICARAGUAN DEFENSE MINISTER ON BORDER FIGHTING

PA200455 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Commander Humberto Ortega, Nicarguan defense minister, has reported that heavy fighting has taken place on the border with Honduras and that 30 former Somozist guardsmen have been killed.

At the inauguration of the National Boy Scouts' Camp on (Coyotepe) Hill in Masaya, Ortega explained that counterrevolutionary bands had gathered at the border with Honduras, resulting in heavy clashes that are still under way.

Ortega also charged in his speech that the United States wants to increase Nicargua's economic difficulties, to incite popular disaffection with the authorities. They don't understand, Ortega stressed, that the people are undertaking their own revolution and that they know very well that yesterday's exploiters are responsible for the situation we are experiencing.

In conclusion, Humberto Ortega explained that Nicaragua's real friends have never placed conditions on the country in exchange for their solidarity and aid.

NICARAGUA-CEMA WORKING COMMISSION FORMED

PA171303 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A joint Nicaraguan-CEMA working commission has been formed in Managua. The commission is headed by Nicaraguan Planning Minister Henry Ruiz and CEMA Deputy Secretary Angel Chaucheu.

Ruiz reported that this joint commission is expected to draw up the main guidelines for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two parties. Ruiz stressed that even though Nicaragua is a small country it has undertaken a free and independent course and has historically shown that it has no fear of the future, can confront difficulties without hesitation, and can defend its heritage.

Chaucheu expressed satisfaction at the fraternal relations that exist between CEMA member countries and Nicargua, which have been developed on the basis of full equality; respect for sovereignty, independence, and national interests; and nonintervention in internal affairs.

NICARAGUAN PEASANTS RECEIVING MORE LAND

PA211909 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, has said that while the Sandinist revolution distributes land among its true owners, the peasants, the contra and the rightist parties try to take those properties away from them. Wheelock stressed that in this year alone, the peasants will possess five times more land than they had during the Somoza dictatorship.

MEXICO GUARANTEES SAFETY OF GUATEMALAN REFUGEES

PA220312 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Mexican Government will continue to guarantee to all those seeking refuge in Mexico protection against physical and psychological abuse. The Aid Commission for Refugees [Comision de Ayuda a los Refugiados], composed of the Foreign Relations, Interior, and Labor and Social Welfare secretariats, last Sunday held its first meeting of 1984. The commission reaffirmed its complete support for human rights and adherence to the basic guidelines of international relations.

During the meeting the commission assessed the amount of aid given to Guatemalan refugees, who are scattered in 70 camps along the border and are legally protected by the Immigration Services Department. The commission discussed the problems of distributing food to the Guatemalans because of the remote locations of the refugee camps.

The Mexican Government also expressed interest in implementing a permanent campaign for preventive health care, hygiene, and a standardized education system.

U.S. WANTS GRENADIAN AIRPORT FOR MILITARY BASE

PA180421 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The U.S. Government is pressuring Grenadian authorities to grant a 99-year lease of the unfinished Point Salines International Airport, in order to make it a permanent military base.

Grenada's Interim Executive Council, headed by Nicholas Brathwaite, is considering the U.S. request, about which there is disagreement among the members of that island government. Governor General Paul Scoon agrees with the use of the Point Salines Airport as a U.S. military base. However, several members of the interim government believe that instead of making the airport a military base, the United States should pay for the damage done to it during the U.S. troop landing there last October.

Brathwaite will soon travel to Trinidad and Tobago to negotiate for financial aid in the form of legal assistance, and to attempt to thaw the bilateral relations that were suspended as a consequence of the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

U.S. REPORTEDLY SELLS MISSILES TO CHILE

PA200336 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The Peruvian daily LA REPUBLICA has reported that the United States will transfer Pershing I missiles from the GDR to Chile once the new Pershing II missiles are installed in that European country. The daily, quoting Latin American intelligence sources, said that the Pershing I missiles are among several offensive weapons, including 4,000 chemical rockets, that Washington has sold to Chile.

The Peruvian daily warns that this supply of weapons will break every international effort to keep this part of the continent a nuclear-free zone and at the same time will affect the military equilibrium in the southern hemisphere.

COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA SIGN DRUG AGREEMENT

PA190403 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The Colombian and Venezuelan Governments have signed an agreement to eradicate drug trafficking, subversion, and kidnappings in their border areas. The agreement, which has a 3-year term, will be automatically extended for similar periods if it is not terminated by one of the signatory parties. It was signed in Caracas by Colombian Defense Minister Gustavo Matamoros and Venezuelan Defense Minister Humberto Alcalde Alvarez.

COLOMBIAN PEACE COMMISSION STUDIES FARC PROPOSAL

PA180434 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The Colombian Peace Commission last night began to discuss a draft for an eventual cease-fire agreement between the guerrilla forces and the Colombian Army. The commission's proposals will be submitted to President Belisario Betancur Cuartas. The Colombian radio station RCN said that the debates are based on a proposal submitted by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, of which President Betancur was already aware.

The same source said that the rebel proposal has six points: a cease-fire, legal guarantees for the guerrillas who did not accept the 1982 amnesty, distribution of scholarships and land, the granting of loans, allowing the guerrillas who accepted the amnesty to leave Colombia when conditions demand it, and a democratic opening to participate in politics and formulas to establish equitable justice in the zones of violence.

Meanwhile, it was learned that 10 students and 5 policemen were injured and several vehicles burned during violent incidents yesterday near the National University.

POLICE, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CLASH IN COLOMBIA

FL170220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- Violent incidents near the National University have resulted in 10 students and 5 policemen injured and several vehicles burned.

The incidents began when students, after participating in a meeting, obstructed El Dorado highway, which leads to the Bogota international airport. The students set two buses and a soft drink delivery truck on fire. Police used tear gas bombs to disperse the university students, who responded by throwing sticks, stones, and other objects.

OPPOSITION STAGES DEMONSTRATION IN PARAGUAY

PA200233 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Opposition groups staged a large demonstration in a central plaza in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, to demand more jobs and better incomes from the government. The protest was organized by the Febrerista Revolutionary Party and was supported by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Popular Colorado Movement. Some 2,000 people participated in the meeting, many of them carrying placards that severely criticized Alfredo Stroessner's military dictatorship.

This was the first anti-government demonstration staged by the opposition in Paraguay in many years.

WAVE OF WORKER, STUDENT STRIKES REPORTED IN PERU

Registry, Power Workers Strike

PA211946 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A wave of strikes is occurring in Peru for a variety of reasons. Public Registry workers have begun an indefinite strike and have asked the authorities to fulfill demands to improve the economic situation. Peruvian power workers continue their strike, claiming that their demands have not been met. Bakery workers are also on strike, demanding salary increases.

Meanwhile, reports from Cuzco indicate that six people have died as a consequence of severe rain storms that caused many rivers to overflow, resulting in extensive damages. Rivers have also overflowed in Arequipa, causing severe damage to the agriculture in that area.

Students Join Strike Movement

PA180438 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Student and community organizations in Lima, Peru, have called for popular demonstrations this Thursday to protest the government's economic policy. The rallies have been organized by the Federation of Peruvian Students and the popular assemblies of the Lima districts of Coma and Carabayo, with 1 million inhabitants.

The students will participate in the third national protest rally against the university law, demanding that it be modified in a request submitted to the Executive Branch and the National Congress.

The march organized by the community organizations, scheduled to reach the Government Palace, will be to demand the execution of potable water projects in the districts of Comas and Carabayo.

Over 300,000 dockworkers and 10,000 doctors have joined that Peruvian strike movement, which already includes electricity workers, railroad workers of the southern part of the country, and the Lima bakers.

Dockworkers Declare Indefinite Strike

PA190401 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] 15,000 Peruvian dockworkers have turned the 72-hour work stoppage that was initiated last Thursday into an indefinite strike because they have received no response to a list of demands presented almost 3 weeks ago. The dockworkers' conflict, which has already resulted in an $8 million loss, is the most important of the series of strikes that the (Los Pajaderos de Lima) and (El Cayao) electricity workers are carrying out, along with the railroad workers in the southern part of Peru. The strike has paralyzed the country's 15 ports. Along with the 15,000 dockworkers, 15,000 more workers who depend on the dockworkers' activities have also stopped work.

TORTURE, NEWSMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE NOTED IN PERU

PA191542 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Peru -- A police officer and a sergeant are reportedly responsible for the torture of university student Victor Zorilla, whom they accused without evidence of being a Shining Path member. In Lima, the owner of a boarding house reported Canadian newsman Alan Ascort as missing. The journalist arrived in Lima over a month ago, left the boarding house one day, and has not been heard from since.

GUYANA

VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR SHOT DURING ROBBERY

PA211419 Paris AFP in Spanish 1353 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Georgetown, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Sadio Garavini, the Venezuelan ambassador to Guyana, this morning was shot in the eye by a thief who had broken into his home, the police have reported. His wife, Maria Garavini, was wounded in her legs. Both have been hospitalized. A team of specialists has left on a plane from Caracas to return the wounded diplomat and his wife to the Venezuelan capital for emergency treatment.

The criminal left with money and other valuable objects.

SURINAME

MONETARY CRISIS PROMPTS REQUEST FOR IMF AID

FL171532 Hilversum International Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Deputy President of the Central Bank of Suriname (Neil Hasu) is having talks in Washington with officials of the International Monetary Fund, the IMF. (Neil Hasu) was a member of the Commission on Finance and Economics, which in a report to the Suriname Government raised the alarm about the country's foreign currency reserves. The report stated that it was crucial for Suriname to secure aid from the IMF within 3 or 4 months. The government headed by Prime Minister Errol Alibux, which recently tendered its resignation to the military leadership, had negotiated with the IMF back in 1982. The government asked the fund for a $100-million loan.

The IMF set a number of conditions, including a reduction in the country's budget deficit. The Surinamese Government, as a first step towards (?meeting) the conditions, brought in a tax increase. But after a crippling strike in the bauxite industry, it was compelled to withdraw it. There is now doubt in the capital, Paramaribo, as to whether Suriname can indeed fulfill the IMF conditions. The Commission on Finance and Economics has not adopted a recommendation that the Surinamese guilder be devalued by 30 percent. Meanwhile, Surinamese Ambassador to the Netherlands Henk Herrenberg has been recalled for consultations. No reason was given.

URUGUAY

GENERAL EVADES APPOINTMENT TO EMBASSY IN U.S.

PY181705 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0419 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Feb (EFE) -- The military government has annuled the designation of General German de la Fuente as the military attache to the Uruguayan Embassy in the United States. The general has refused to accept the post because it would imply a "virtual withdrawal from the daily decisions on the transition from a military to a civilian process."

De la Fuente, 57, is one of the three generals who is aspiring for an opening toward a democratic regime, opposed to his colleagues who are "hardliners" and "for the perpetuation in office." De la Fuente will be the new director of the Military Academy, while General Jose Maria Rivero will go to Washington.